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Issue 289

December 2020/January 2021

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Magazine

Volume 1 Issue 289

Publisher and Editor
Mark A. Goudy

Contributing Editors
West Virginia Division Of
Natural Resources

No Subscriptions Offered

Printed Every Six Weeks.

W.Va. Sportsman

P.O. Box 5521
Vienna, WV 26105

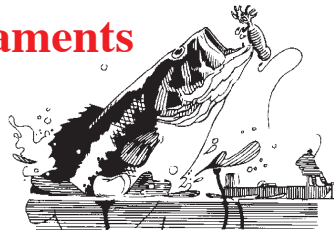
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Cover Photo

Not being superstitious, Brandon Marks used a bow on Friday the 13th for this awesome main beam 10 point buck. His November buck was taken by the Walton native in Roane County.

This magazine is still looking for your big buck or other big game animals. Text or email your pics - Page 38 has a form to be used listing methods of sending your pic.

Some seasons (deer-bear) remain open until December 31st.

Fall Trout Stocking Announced

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — It's the season of giving and hunters in West Virginia are encouraged to give back during the holidays by making a donation to the state's Hunters Helping the Hungry program.

The program is administered by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and provides thousands of pounds of venison to needy families and charitable organizations around the state. Hunters can donate a harvested deer or make a financial contribution.

"I'm convinced that the only thing better than enjoying a successful hunting season and filling your freezer with venison is being able to share your good luck with oth-

ers," said WVDNR Director Stephen McDaniel. "We take a lot of things for granted in life and the holidays are a time for us all to take a step back and help care for someone who may be less fortunate. Our Hunters Helping the Hungry program is one of the best ways hunters can make a difference in their community."

Hunters who want to harvest a deer and donate the meat to the program have several hunting opportunities before the end of the year. The archery and crossbow season for deer is open until Dec. 31, the antlerless split season is open in select counties Dec. 10-13 and Dec. 28-31 and the muzzleloader season

continue to the next page



Andrea Cross brought in a 12 point buck. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.



Mia Beto hunted in the snow for her nice buck.



Makenzie Taylor used a crossbow in Jackson Co. for a good 11 point..

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is open Dec. 14-20. Hunters who need to purchase a hunting license or stamps should visit wvhunt.com.

To make a donation, hunters may take a harvested deer to one of 13 certified meat processors, where the venison is ground, packaged and frozen. Donated meat is distributed to food pantries, soup kitchens and other charitable organizations around the state by the Mountaineer Food Bank and Facing Hunger Foodbank.

Financial contributions also are accepted. Checks and money orders should be made out to Hunters Helping the Hungry and mailed to: Hunters Helping the Hungry WV Division of Natural Resources 163 Wildlife Road French Creek, WV 26218

For more information about donating to Hunters Helping the Hungry, visit wvdnr.gov/hunting/hhh.shtm.

Hunting Brings Families Together

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — Many hunters in West Virginia got their start with kids and the state Division of Natural Resources is encouraging adult hunters to continue introducing their children and families to the sport this fall.

"The whole idea behind youth hunting seasons is to provide an opportunity for hunters to take a kid out before a regular season starts when everyone else is pursuing game," said Todd Dowdy, a WVDNR wildlife biologist.

Special youth hunting opportunities include a two-day spring turkey season in April, a two-day squirrel season in September, a two-day bear and deer season in October and two-day deer seasons in December.

"Speaking as a father of two chil-

dren that I've introduced to hunting, the experience of hunting with them is more rewarding than harvesting an animal on my own,"
continue to the next page



Lee Winters bagged a nice 8 point in Fayette County.

Dowdy said. "If you want to spend quality time with your kids or a family member, you won't find a better opportunity than you will hunting."

Youth hunters, according to West Virginia's Hunting Regulations, are those who are at least 8 years old and less than 18. Youth hunters ages 15-17 must comply with all licensing requirements, but Class N or NN stamps are not required. Youth hunters ages 8-14 do not need a license, but must be accompanied by a licensed adult.

For hunters who want to introduce their kids or relatives to hunting this fall, Dowdy says taking time to teach them the basics is key.

"If you have a new hunter, you need to take them to a shooting range and help them get familiar with the firearm they'll be using before you go out to participate in a hunting season," he said.

To learn more about West Virginia's hunting seasons, rules and regulations for youth hunters, visit wvdnr.gov.



Kaleb Black bagged a great 12 point in Summers County.

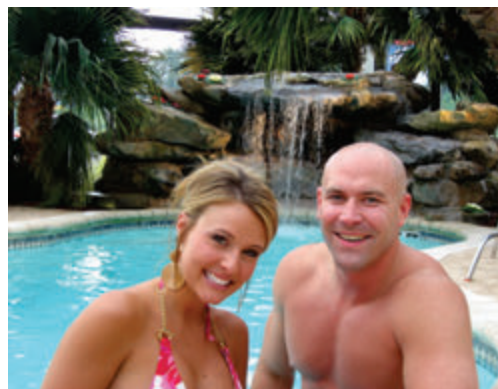


Jody Dalton, from Princeton, used a bow in Wyoming County for this typical 12 point buck. It green scored 194 and after the 60 days scoring rule, could surpass the current record by Chad Cyphers. Chad's buck was taken in McDowell County in 2014 and was a ten point main beam with two other points - 12 point. This buck can be viewed on www.wvasportsman.net. Click on back issues and scroll down to December/January 2014/2015. The buck is featured on the cover and information is on page three.



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WV Fall Wild Turkey Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — Turkey hunters harvested 1,038 birds during the fall season, according to preliminary numbers provided by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

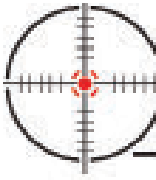
Wild turkey brood observations and harvests during the fall season were similar to last year. This

year's fall turkey harvest came in 6.7 percent below the 2019 season and 13.4 percent below the 10-year average.

Although this is the second year with a declining fall harvest, it is still on par with a typical fall season, said Mike Peters, a WVDNR game bird biologist.

"With statewide mast conditions 35 percent below the long-term average, I was expecting the harvest to be a little higher," Peters said. "During poorer mast years, turkeys normally need to move across the landscape more to fulfill their dietary needs, which makes them more susceptible to harvest. Hunters in Randolph County led the state by harvesting 64 birds. Rounding out the top five counties for harvested birds are Greenbrier (53), Monroe (46), Nicholas (45) and Preston (42). All counties in the top five, except for Preston, had a four-week season. Preston County had a two-week season."

WVDNR District 3 led the state in harvests with 231. District 4 hunters harvested 224 turkeys, District 1 hunters harvested 199, District 2 hunters harvested 150, District 5 hunters harvested 130 and District



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6 hunters harvested 104. Harvests in WVDNR Districts 1 and 2 were slightly higher than in 2019, but remaining districts fell below last year's mark.



Mike Vanatter bagged a gobbler in Lincoln County.



Austin Cooper from Sylvester caught and released a nice musky.



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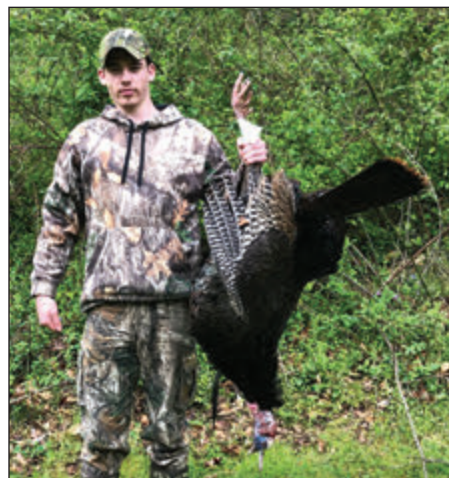


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Malone Wins Toyota Series Championship

Before this season, Chris Malone hadn't fished an FLW event since 2007, when he fished the Tackle Warehouse Pro Circuit as a co-angler and made the Forrest Wood Cup. In that sense, it's probably fair to call winning the Toyota Series Championship on Lake Cumberland and \$247,500 a pretty serious comeback.

Malone, who took home the \$200,000 winner's check, along with a \$35,000 Phoenix contingency bonus, a \$2,500 Mercury bonus and a \$10,000 bonus for being the top Central Division finisher, stepped away from competitive fishing in 2010 to open a boat dealership. Since then, he's fished locally with his eyes on eventual retirement, which may just happen sooner than he probably expected just a few hours ago.

Humility is a trait you'll find in many competitive anglers. Every one of them knows that in order to find success, you need to have a support system – friends, family, even competitors.

In Malone's case, all of those pil-



Many WV bass fishermen know who Chris Malone is. He won the recent Toyota Series at Lake Cumberland.

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lars of support were crucial to his success at the Toyota Series Championship, but none more so than the pillar that is Ryan Davidson.

Davidson, who hails from Branchland, West Virginia and fished the Pro Circuit in 2014 and 2015, bought his first Phoenix boat from Malone in 2015. It was, unbeknownst to them at the time, a pretty fortuitous sale for the pair.

"I didn't know who Ryan was, and about 2015, when he was fishing the [Pro Circuit], he came to continue to the next page



Isaiah Casto landed a farm pond bass in Jackson County.

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me and bought a boat – his first Phoenix,” Malone says. “We started fishing together and really hit it off.

“Ryan is the best winter fisherman I’ve ever fished with in my life. Ryan taught me how to catch these bass. Chris Malone wasn’t going to win this by himself. Ryan Davidson had an awful lot to do with this.”

So much so, in fact, that Malone made a promise to Davidson, who also fished the Toyota Series Championship and who intends to fish the Tackle Warehouse Pro Circuit in 2021: With a win, Malone pledged to pay his friend’s Pro Cir-



Kaylena Mayle bagged a nice 10 point buck. Photo courtesy of THard-core Hunters in Grafton.



Hayden Jenks -7- used a crossbow in Wood County for his buck.

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cuit entry fees for next season.

“I honestly thought Ryan would win this derby,” Malone admits. “Ryan was on more fish than I was. Ryan is a better fisherman than I am. He had bad luck yesterday. I told him last night that if something stupid happens and I win this thing, I’m paying his entry fees.

“That \$30,000 is a drop in the bucket for how I feel right now. I’m on a high you can’t come off of right now.”

It’s not a matter of “easy come, easy go,” either. Malone values money the way we all do. He just

values some things a lot more.

“Money is money,” he says. “Friendship goes forever. No matter what place I get, I’m a winner.”

While Malone may have felt like a winner regardless of his final placement, he truly is a winner right now. Fresh off the win, with little time to ponder the future, Malone is left with quite a few questions he’ll have to answer on his own time.

Firstly: Will he fish competitively in 2021?

“When I saw they were coming continue to the next page





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back here for the Championship again – after I bought a house down here (in Burnside, Kentucky) last year; that’s going to be a retirement present – when they put the Championship back here, I said I’m going to go fish [the Toyota Series]. I want to see if I can compete. I haven’t competed against these guys for a long time.”=

Knowing he can in fact compete against some of the best competition in fishing now only amplifies the burning question at hand.

“I honestly wasn’t going to fish next year,” he says. “I don’t know. I don’t know how you don’t fish after you just won a quarter-of-a-million dollars. Who knows? Cumberland was the reason I wanted to fish this derby, but Pickwick (the site of the 2021 championship) ain’t a bad pond either. Never say never.”

Regardless of what Malone de-

cidest to do in 2021, it’s clear that he’s good enough to hang with – and beat – the best. And whether he fishes competitively or not, the future looks mighty good with another \$200,000-plus in the bank for eventual retirement.

This season was the first full season Malone has fished with FLW in more than a decade, but he certainly didn’t show any rust. He turned in a 30th-place finish at Chickamauga in the Central Division opener, stumbled a bit at Pickwick (with a 76th-place showing) and then capped off the season with a fifth-place finish at Dale Hollow only a month ago to secure his Toyota Series Championship berth.

Since then, Malone dedicated his time to practicing on Cumberland. His goal: Figure out exactly what it would take to win on one of his favorite fisheries on the planet.



Parker Mason shot a 12 point in Pleasants County.

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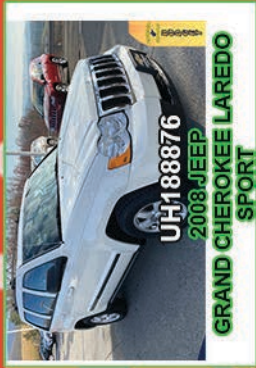
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“I’ve come down here and practiced for the last three weeks, but we never did great,” he says.

It wasn’t until the official practice period leading up to the tournament that Malone finally got on a substantial pattern that really served as the foundation for his win. It was a pattern predicated on getting ahead of the curve, targeting smallmouth – of which he weighed in 15 this week – hanging out, almost literally, near their wintering haunts.

“These smallmouth right now, it’s not cold enough to push them deep, but they winter deep, so all these smallmouth are up high in the water column,” he explains.

Like so many of his competitors, Malone beat the bank on the main lake near channel swings, but he wasn’t fishing as deep as many others. Instead, he mostly employed a Bad Boy Baits tail spinner to get reaction bites fishing almost vertically, pitching to the rocky shoreline and letting the 1/2-ounce offering fall past the suspended fish in search of a reaction bite. If he didn’t get bit on the fall, he’d give it a couple hops and reel it back in.

Almost all of Malone’s fish came on that tail spinner (he did weigh in three that he caught on a Cumberland staple SPRO RKCrawler), though he did attempt a few haymakers at the end of day three after

continue to the next page

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Marissa Gay harvested her 1st whitetail buck.

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seeing his co-angler, Matt Greene (who won the co-angler division), catch his winning fish on a glide bait. Malone picked up a Bull Shad and had three fish (including a 6-pounder) blow up on his bait but miss the hooks.

“I went for broke,” he says. “I went to win. Nobody’s ever going to remember who’s second place in this derby. Matt showed me something on that glide bait, so I put the tail spin down and went to go try to catch big ones. I fished to win.”

When Malone decided to fish the Central Division this year, he had to buy a Phoenix boat (having been running the dealer boats in his inventory) in order to qualify for the \$35,000 Phoenix contingency bonus. He hedged his bets, bought the boat, and he’s now \$35,000 richer than he otherwise would have been.

Take, for instance, the Championship being on Lake Cumberland for the second year in a row – Malone’s favorite fishery, and one on which he’s had a lot of experience. Or the fact that Malone finished fifth at Dale Hollow to clinch his Championship berth. Consider that he was finally in a place with his business where he felt comfortable taking

off time to fish the Toyota Series this year.

Take any one of those variables

out of the equation and his win probably doesn’t happen. That fact isn’t lost on Malone.



Tammi Lucas brought in her first gobbler this fall.



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Winter Bass Using A Tail Spinner Lure

FLW Tour professional Tom Redington rummaged around his truck bed, looking for what I presumed to be another tackle box. When Redington pulled an old Folgers Coffee jug from his truck bed, I thought maybe he needed some coffee before a morning of fishing. Only after seeing the fancy piece of duct tape slapped to the outside of the jug with the words "tail spins" on it did I realize that it was me who was confused.

"A tail spin is one of my old secret weapons," Redington said. "They have been around forever, but a lot of guys don't even own them anymore. The fish don't see them much anymore, so when the situation presents itself, a tailspin can be an absolutely amazing bait."

What is a tail spinner

When inspecting a tail spinner, you can understand why many anglers look past them. The lure itself

consists of only a few simple pieces of hardware: a small piece of lead, a single treble hook, and a small Colorado blade. Not a lot of flash or "sexiness" to catch an angler's attention. This very well may be the key to the lure's effectiveness.

"A tailspin is simply a cross between a jigging spoon and a spinnerbait," Redington explained. "Those are two of the most effective lures that have ever been made. A tail spin may not be sexy, but it catches fish."

Typical tail spins, like the Mann's Little George or Revenge Tail Spinners are offered from 1/4-ounce up to 1-ounce versions, and can be used in wide variety of circumstances. Redington, who uses a tail spin exclusively for offshore scenarios in cold weather, throws either a 1/2-ounce or the 1-ounce model.

Because so few people fish tail spins these days, Redington knows fish in deep, cold water will eagerly react to one; and not just bass either.

"Maybe the best way to tell a tailspin works, is how many different species of fish will eat this lure," Redington said. "I have caught bass, bluegill, crappie, white bass,

continue to the page 18



Pat Stevens used a bow for his nice 9 point buck. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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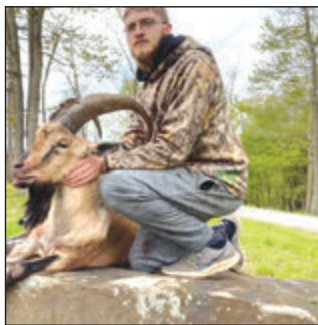
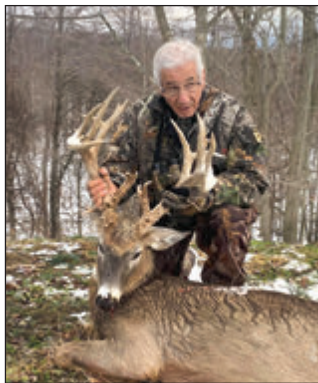
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bluegill, crappie, white bass, and even catfish when fishing with a tailspin. It is pretty incredible really; they must mimic a dying bait-fish perfectly."

Both from his experience on the FLW Tour and through years of running a guide business, Redington has noticed many anglers have a problem throwing such a small bait.

"This may be a tiny bait, but it is no doubt a big fish catcher," Redington grinned. "I've had many guide clients on Lake Fork catch absolute monsters with these little things. It'll get you a lot of numbers of bites, that's for sure, but certainly don't rule out the possibility of a big bass on a tail spin."

While Redington believes a tail spin will catch fish all year long, throughout the fall and winter is when Redington relies heavily on this lure. After several years of experimentation Redington has figured out the intricacies of this presentation and where he likes to fish it. First and foremost, if Redington is employing a tailspin, he'll be out

continue to page 20

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Bud Hobbs bowed a great 13 point Kanawha County buck.



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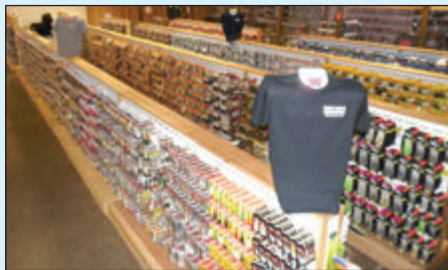
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over deep water.

Long flat points

"A long, flat, relatively barren point is one of the best places to throw a tailspin," Redington said. "On Lake Fork in the fall, bass will get in what I call 'mega-schools' with other bass, crappie, white bass, and even catfish. They'll roam around these open points, following the baitfish. I use my Garmin Electronics to find the fish and stay on them. Making short casts to the school and keeping them fired up." Large flats inside major creek arms

Just like the bass out on the points, Redington oftentimes finds huge schools of baitfish in one little area of a flat inside a major creek. Usually they'll congregate around one small area because of a depth change, or a certain piece of structure. During the fall and winter, when Redington finds the bait he knows the bass aren't far away.

"With the new Garmin Panoptix technology, it is amazing how much an angler can see," Redington explained. "Panoptix mounts on your trolling motor and actually scans the water right out in front of your boat. Making me 100x

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Casey Posey had hunting success with this nice buck.



Eryn Gibson Legg brought in a nice 9 point whitetail buck.



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more efficient in finding the bait, and the bass. It sounds crazy but you can even see single fish roaming around on a flat. Then it's just as easy as casting your bait out to them and setting the hook!"

Suspended bass in open water

The last scenario Redington opts for a tail spin is suspended fish in open water. Redington again uses his electronics to find the fish and then sits right over top of the bass and vertical jigs his tail spin for them.

Many anglers call this "video game fishing" as you can often watch the fish come to eat your lure on your electronics screen.

"When it gets sunny and slick in cold weather and those bass get suspended, they'll still fall for a tailspin," Redington said. "Once

you find the fish, situate your boat right on top of the school and drop your tailspin down to them, almost like you're ice fishing. Use your electronics to stay on the school, and you will catch the fire out of them."

How to work a Tailspin

While Redington has dialed in on a few precise ways he like to fish a tailspin, he urges you to experiment with different retrieves.

"There are several ways to work a tailspin, but it is really all about the slack in your line," Redington explained. "When you fish this bait out deep, you have to be very



Gary Ross harvested a high racked 8 point buck.



Chris Cole bagged a nice 10 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton.*

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mindful of the slack in your line and how that affects your rate of fall."

Stroking

"When I talk about stroking a lure, I am talking about explosive action," Redington said. "I'll employ
continue to the next page



DJ Petty Jr. reeled in a nice catfish. *Photo courtesy of PC Outdoors in Crab Orchard.*

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this retrieve when the fish are aggressive and the water is still fairly warm. Start with your rod parallel to the water and then quickly lift your rod towards the sky with a swift motion. You really want to rip the bait off the bottom and try to get a reaction strike out of the



James Maltempie used a crossbow in Summers Co. for his 8 point.

bass."

Slow lift and drop

"Using a slow rise and fall retrieve is probably how I fish this bait more often than any other way," Redington said. "After the bait hits the bottom, you want to slowly start reeling it back in, keeping the bait of the bottom and the blade of the bait slowly turning. Then you just want to vary the speed of your retrieve and oscillate your rod as you work your bait back to the boat. It's almost like an exaggerated yo-yo retrieve. This works well on fish throughout all stages of the fall and winter, whether the water is warm or frigid."

Worming or crawling

"The last way I find myself working a tailspin is by slowly creeping the bait along the bottom, or 'worming it' as I like to call it," Redington said. "I do this when the

water is really cold and the fish are inactive. Move your rod from 10 to 12 o'clock, maintaining some slack in your line, and slowly creep the bait along. You want to keep the tailspin low in the water column, bumping the bottom as you go."



Jeff Chamberlain took a real nice 11 pointer. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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Enjoy Winter Rabbit Hunting

Winter Rabbit hunting is one of the best activities you can do during winter. Sure it may be cold but hunting rabbits is worth it. In this article, I'll show you the steps to take when you are late rabbit hunting without dogs and how to hunt rabbits in the winter.

Many people tend to ask why is rabbit season in the winter? Well it is easy, cold days are good for hunting because the rabbit fur has poor insulation, so the rabbits will be forced to take shelter from the harsh weather making them easier to find.

The steps to hunt rabbits in the winter include:

Snipe rabbits at dawn

During winter, rabbits seek shelter in thick bushes and evergreen trees. This answers the question,

where do the rabbits go in the winter? You can use a small binocular to look for new timber cuts, patches of newly burnt wood or edges of fields.

Winter rabbits require good quality forage and twigs and green growth in burns will feed the rabbits during the early hours. Look for rabbits that have walked into the open. Don't forget to pack your scoped, 22 rifle since it may come in handy.

Work the edges after sunup

Rabbits tend to go to nearby cover once the sun has been up for a while. Take your shotgun and check every tangle of hedgerow brush and check every pile of timber slash. Rabbits use these areas as their hiding places. It will be easier to shoot the rabbit when you

remove them from the thickets. Go to the high ground for loafing rabbits

The next step is to move to the dense areas because rabbits hide in these areas during midday. High grounds along swamps or creeks are a sure bet. Thickets grow in in-

continue to the next page



Dan Lipscomb bagged a wide racked deer. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

creased sunlight so the rabbits will definitely find shelter there and also water. Rabbits dislodged from these areas have fewer options to escape so it will be easy to trapping rabbits in winter.

Hunt hunkered-down rabbits near home

Old homesteads and equipment junkyards are mostly ignored for years. These also provide safe havens for the rabbits. Don't pass up these areas especially if these places are in the middle of fields. Put gunners 20 yards from the corners of the barns. Rabbits will run along the edges of barns and abandoned houses, then jet away from places with easy shotgun range.

Stage mini drives for wood rabbits.

Once you've checked the fields and creeks, go into the woods. If there are 2 hunters, then they should be at least 30 yards apart. That is the standard method for shooting and jumping rabbits. You can also another method which includes having one hunter go quietly into the woods for about 30 yards then the next hunter should follow in a zig-zag pattern.

Take a stand for last light rabbits.

As afternoon reaches, go back to the food plot or where there are recent burns. Rabbits will return to those areas to feed so you have to check them again. Follow the steps

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Jason Chewing caught a long flat-head.



James Greene from Tioga shot a quality whitetail buck.

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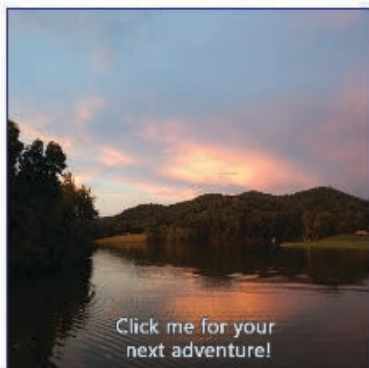
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Issue 288 October/November 2020

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above and you will likely end with where you started. Though the process is tiresome, a rabbit filled bag will be worth it.

As for what to hunt with, some hunters use a bow and arrow. Though it is a challenge, the silence of the woods is not disturbed. Some also use shotguns but it is not preferred because the shot tears up the meat on the already small animal. They use a .22 long rifle because there isn't a lot of aiming time.

Releasing the beagles since they are useful in sniffing the rabbits Snow is your friend because you can track rabbits

Pack an open choiced shotgun Heavy/ winter hunting clothes and armor against thorns

Take your time

Winter cottontails are fun to hunt. So how do you hunt rabbits in the snow or winter? Here are some rabbit hunting tips for winter cottontail:

Wear brush pants for protection
Wear your blaze orange to be visible to other hunters

Take the right gear like a cylinder choke

Find clover, these are loved by cottontails so they will be there

Know when to hunt

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Final Words


After reading all these rabbit hunting tips , you feel comfortable when going for a hunt. Another thing to note is that rabbits are highly infested with fleas which is bad for your health. After you've shot a rabbit let it cool before you pick it up. If you want better hunting results, winter rabbit hunting is your best choice.



Tanner Burns is pleased with this extra nice buck.

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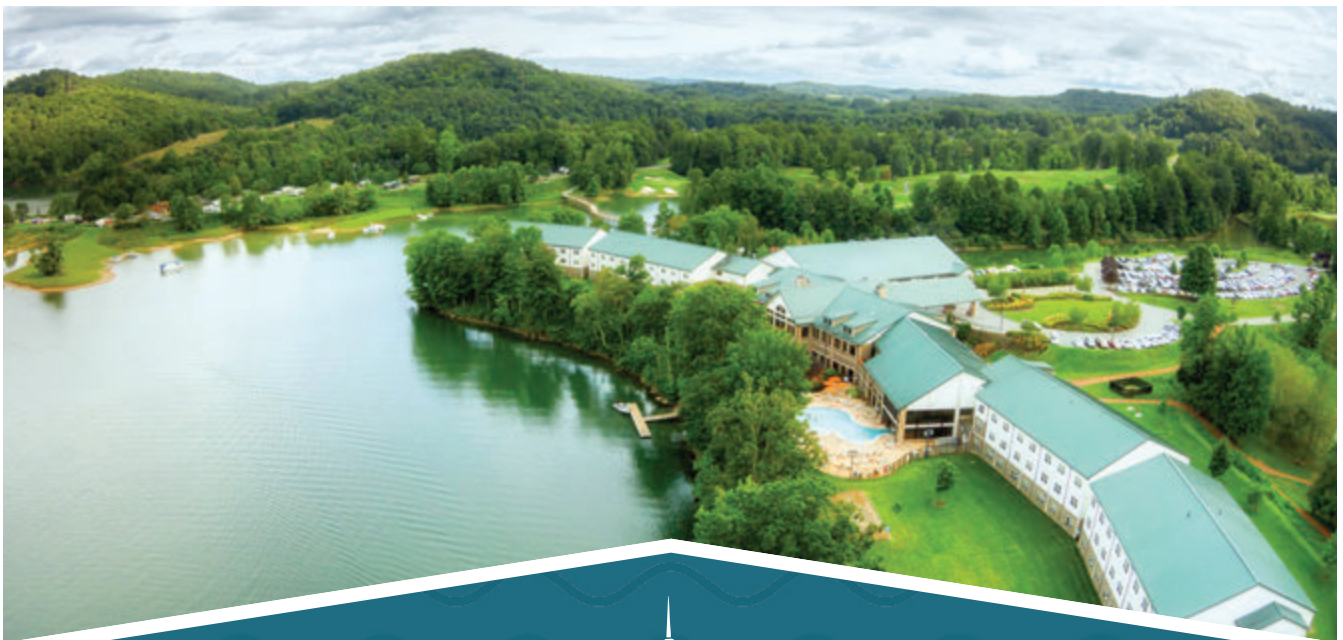



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49 Hunting Facts

- Archaic humans began hunting around 3 million years ago, and it has remained a part of our civilization since then.
- When archeologists discovered early evidence of our human ancestors' hunting activities, it became clear that adding meat to the diet meant big changes for early Homo sapiens. For example, skeleton size increased soon after, suggesting

- meat was important for evolution.
 - Researchers believed early humans waited in trees for their prey to pass underneath, rather than chase after animals the way hunters in the classical and Renaissance periods generally did.
 - Bows and arrows were a universal method of hunting, except in Australia.
 - Weapon choices vary, but a bow and arrow are fairly traditional
 - Blowpipes, or blow guns, are some of the most dangerous weapons a hunter can use.
 - The Australian boomerang, now a popular toy and tourist gift, was originally a tool used for hunting.
 - When early humans hunted bigger game, like antelopes, they chose to eat only adults, leaving
- continue to the next page

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Bill Stoneking, from Waverly, shot a nice 9 point Wetzel Co. buck.



Gage Ketterman had success on an 8 point. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*



Ken Wisdom brought in a good 8 point. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

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behind younger and older animals in the herd.

- Hunting may have helped establish traditional gender roles, as males were forced to learn to hunt more efficiently in order to feed their female mates and offspring.
- When agriculture was introduced about 11,000 years ago, hunting became less important as people dedicated more time to cultivating crops.
- Hunting is still important for people who live in areas where farming is impossible or very difficult, such as rainforests in South America or jungles in Southeastern Asia.



Brady Six has his 1st buck - an 8 point - from Tyler County.



Jasmine DeMoss got a nice buck in Ritchie County.

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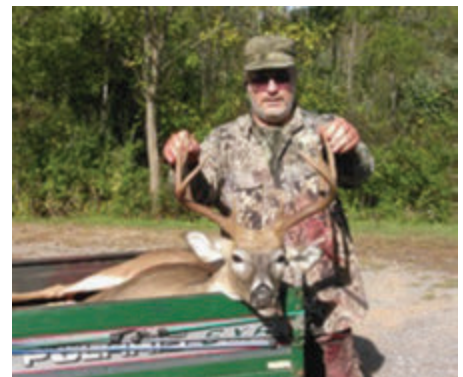
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- Artemis, daughter of Zeus, was the virgin Greek goddess of the hunt.
 - Diana, the Roman equivalent of Artemis, guarded forests and the animals who lived there.
 - Mixcoatl was the Aztec god of hunting. To ensure a prosperous hunting season, the Aztecs performed human sacrifices.
 - Aztecs often made humans sac-
- continue to the next page



Brian Powers shot an 8 point in Gilmore County.

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rifices.

- Aztecs often made humans sacrifices to ensure the favor of the gods (we're curious about how they hunted those animals)
- Dogs were most likely trained to hunt alongside humans in the early Neolithic era, and some breeds were developed to hunt specific animals.
- Horses were raised to hunt starting in 2nd millennium.
- In ancient Egypt, hunters were a separate class, often hunting for nobles and aristocrats as well as on their own.
- The use of hunting dogs can be traced back to ancient Egypt, where greyhounds were used to track gazelles.
- "Coursing" is the use of hounds in hunting.



Reece Alvis hunted in the snow for his 8 point whitetail.

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- "Gun dogs" are dogs that hunt by scent and sight, and both fetch birds after they have been killed as
continue to the next page



Ron Jones went to Tyler County for his 10 point deer.



Roger Perry, from Buckhannon, got a big Pocahontas County buck.

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well as sighting them before. Setters, spaniels, and pointers are the most common "gun dog" breeds.

- During the Middle Ages, hunting as a sport was reserved for the rich and done on private lands owned by aristocrats.

- Some hunting techniques in the early modern era involved putting animals in an enclosed space and allowing them to be killed outright



PJ Saltis used a bow for a great buck. Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton.



Zach Rouzee bagged a 13 point buck in Preston County.

with little effort.

- In many early Northern European tribes, slaves were forbidden from hunting since they were not allowed to own weapons or bear arms.

- Hunting with firearms began in the 16th century.

- The perils of duck hunting are great - especially for the duck.-

- In 1515, the French government made hunting and poaching illegal for peasants.

- Punishments for peasants who hunted on grounds owned by nobles included being sewn into a deerskin and chased by hunting dogs, who would kill the prey upon capture.

- Kings would often demonstrate their hunting ability for an audience of nobles. To do so, kings would have game brought to closed arena before shooting and killing it, rather than hunting it in the wild.

continue to page34

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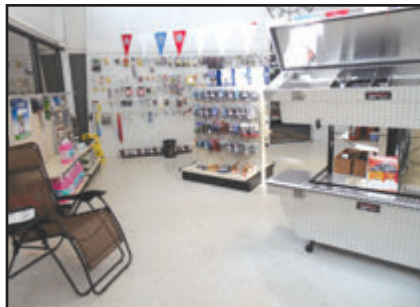
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- Nobility in medieval England hunted several animals, including the stag, the boar, and even otters.
- Queen Elizabeth I enjoyed hawking (where prey is killed by trained hawks) as well as hunting.
- Royal feasts in medieval and renaissance Europe often included wild boar and venison, sometimes killed by the king himself.
- Red deer, fallow deer, and hares were hunted for their ability to lead a chase, an exciting change from waiting for prey to wander into range.
- The French Revolution opened up lands for hunting, but the sudden free-reign of people on hunting



Jacob Kincaid - 8- went to Raleigh County for his 8 point buck.

grounds caused massive animal and ecosystem damage.

- Foxes were initially hunted like vermin but were eventually hunted for sport.
- Wolves were considered a type of vermin in early Europe. People were allowed to kill as many wolves as they could, whenever they could.
- Wolves were hunted to extinction in the UK, but species still remain in North America and in continental Europe



Bob Settle had archery success with a good buck. *Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton.*

- By 1770, wolves had become extinct in the British isles due to overhunting.
 - In the 1800s, over-hunting had brought about the extinction of several species, prompting the introduction of the extensive game
- continue to the next page

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laws currently in place in Great Britain.

- In the UK, nothing more deadly than a double-barreled shotgun is allowed as a hunting weapon, as the shooter can only unload two bullets before reloading, thus allowing prey the chance to escape.
- It costs about \$20 and takes about 5 hours for the average deer hunter to secure one pound of venison.
- The most common "trophy" animal (an animal meant to be killed and then displayed) in the United States is the snow goose.
- American hunters track and kill most of their trophy animals in Canada.
- In Africa, the most common trophy animal is the lion, followed by the elephant and the leopard.
- Samuel Colt, the man who created an empire selling hunting weapons, was said to have coined the phrase "new and improved."
- Only five percent of Americans

participated in hunting during the past five years, meaning the sport is on the decline.

- Non-violent natural activities, such as nature photography and bird watching, are replacing hunting in popularity.
- Somewhat ironically, money spent on hunting helps fund wildlife conservation efforts
- Taxes on hunting licenses and equipment pay for 60% of wildlife agencies' expenses. Less hunting means less funding, which is a concern for many state-run wildlife and recreational departments.
- President Theodore Roosevelt, himself an avid hunter, helped create the "conservation through wise use" principle and encouraged other hunters to donate to causes that would preserve the land they hunted on.
- New York sold its first deer hunting permit in 1864. President Roo-

sevelt helped more states sell licenses, thus allowing for healthier revenue streams.

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Zane Yeater shot a nice 9 point in Wetzell County.



Seth Bailey, from Pineville, landed a good smallmouth in his kayak.



Shawn Ramme had success with a nice 9 point whitetail buck.

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• In 1937, Congress passed legislation that required money earned from hunting licenses and products to be used for conservation efforts.

• Almost a third of hunters in the United States are baby boomers.[9] Most hunters retire from the sport by the age of 65.



Shyanne Wade, from Orlando, got a Braxton Co. 10 point buck.



Billy Huddleston had success with a nice 10 point buck.

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 ~ Details On Page 3



Kyle Cedar went to Meigs Co. in Ohio for his buck.

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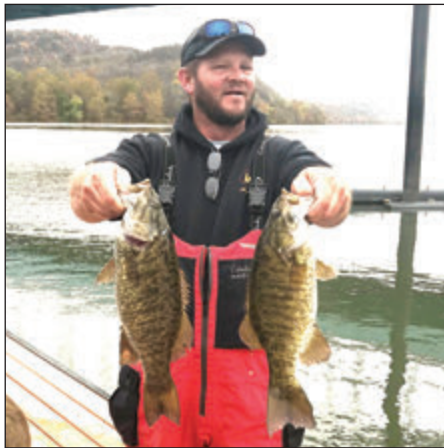
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Tim Wade, from Orlando, won this years WVBF championship.



Young Mike Hosey got a giant Webster County whitetail buck.



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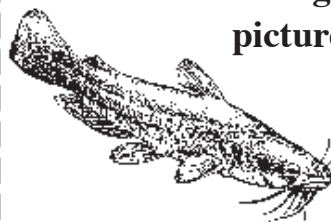
Sheila Perry, from Buckhannon, bagged a big Pocahontas Co. buck.

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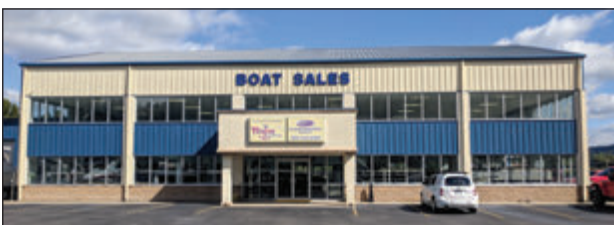
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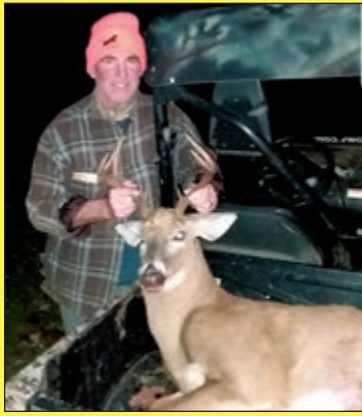


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