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**Issue 226**

**February 2013**



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## Cover Photo

Tim Payton was doe hunting when this 498 pound black bear came by. He was hunting in Ritchie County. The "Redneck Hunting Club" helped him load up this massive bruin.

Some people complain that bear meat is too greasy. One good trick is to cut off all the visible fat. Cover the meat in water and cover it. Bake it at 325 for 1 1/2 hour. No grease - very tender!

*Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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## WV Total Deer Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Preliminary counts of game checking tags indicate West Virginia hunters harvested a total of 131,444 white-tailed deer during the recently completed bucks-only, antlerless, muzzleloader, archery and youth/Class Q/Class XS deer seasons, according to Division of Natural Resources Director Frank Jezioro. This year's total harvest was three percent below the 2011

deer harvest of 135,696. A total of 56,658 bucks, 45,169 antlerless season deer, 24,571 bow-killed deer and 5,046 muzzleloader season deer were taken during the 2012 season.

### Antlerless Deer Season

The 2012 antlerless deer season, which includes the youth/Class Q/Class XS deer season, was 12 percent above 2011 and one and one-half percent below the five-year average of 45,845. "It is important to note that the antlerless harvest is the key component to any deer management strategy, as it controls the future deer population," said Jezioro. "Many counties had liberalized antlerless hunting seasons in 2012, including 10 counties that required hunters to harvest an antlerless deer before harvesting a second buck with a gun or bow, and a new October antlerless firearms season in all open counties. These modifications to the antlerless season structure led to an increase in the

continue to the next page



Bill Waters went to Raleigh County for this big 10 point.



Edward Cox used a bow for this big 12 pointer. Photo courtesy of Uncle Tom's in Oceanna.

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the harvest and will ensure that deer populations do not exceed management objectives.” The top 10 counties are: Preston (2,343), Mason (2,026), Jackson (1,759), Wood (1,608), Lewis (1,575), Upshur (1,569), Harrison (1,511), Ritchie (1,391), Monongalia (1,340) and Randolph (1,325).

**Muzzleloader Deer Season**

The 2012 muzzleloader harvest of 5,046 was 36 percent less than the 2011 harvest of 7,873 and was 37 percent below the five-year average of 7,969. “A change in season dates and an above-average acorn crop contributed to the decline in the muzzleloader harvest,” Jezioro said. The top 10 counties are: Preston (237), Randolph (230), Nicholas (219), Braxton (216), Webster (203), Jackson (173), Fayette



Jason Bigley shot a nice 12 pt buck. Photo courtesy of Old&New Sports in Ravenswood.



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(170), Upshur (160), Lewis (157) and Mason (147).

**Archery Deer Season**

The bow hunters take of 24,571 deer was 10 percent below the 2011 harvest of 27,404, 10 percent below the five-year average harvest of 27,339. Archery harvests are directly correlated to hard mast crops, and the above average



Bill Stoneking, from Williamstown, got a 9 point buck.

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acorn crop was the primary factor for the lower harvest in 2012. The top 10 counties are: Preston (1,089), Kanawha (863), Raleigh (796), Randolph (791), Monongalia (769), Wyoming (765), Logan (739), Greenbrier (727), Fayette (707) and Nicholas (693).



Theron Smallridge shot a massive buck. Photo courtesy of Andreson Outdoors in Buckhannon.



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# B.A.S.S. Classic Blunders

The Bassmaster Classic is a tournament where heroes are made, winners become household names and careers are galvanized. Every B.A.S.S. fan can recount the Classic exploits of Bobby Murray, Rick Clunn, Bryan Kerchal and Kevin VanDam. Their stories are legend.

But there's another side to that same coin, and it belongs to the anglers — many of them every bit as talented as their championship-winning counterparts — who fell short and missed their chance at Classic immortality.

In chronological order, here are three Bassmaster Classic collapses.

1975

The 1975 Bassmaster Classic on North Carolina's Currituck Sound was supposed to belong to Paul Chamblee, a man who would qualify for all six Classics between 1974 and 1979 and who just might be the best angler in B.A.S.S. history that never won a tournament. Chamblee lived in Raleigh, and though he had

little experience on the tournament waters, he lived up to early predictions with a huge catch on the first day.

B.A.S.S.

Paul Chamblee with a bass from the 1975 Classic on Currituck Sound.

Chamblee used a black single-spin spinnerbait to take a limit of 8-bass weighing an impressive 26 pounds, 1 ounce on Day 1. It was enough to grab the lead by almost four pounds over lure-making legend Tom Mann. Jack Hains, fishing his first Classic, was more than 10 pounds back, in 10th place.

Day 2 wasn't quite as good to Chamblee. He was one short of a limit with 12-6, but things were still looking up. Despite the slower fishing, his lead was growing. He was now 5-15 ahead of his closest competitor, but that angler was now Hains, who came on strong in the second round. The biggest thing going for Chamblee was that

continue to the next page

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Jason Myers shot a quality buck.

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area, making fishing extra tough. If he could post any kind of catch in the finals, he'd almost certainly win. As one competitor put it, "The good Lord is looking out for Paul Chamblee."

But it seems He must have been looking out just a little bit more for Hains, ironically now a preacher, because Chamblee struggled mightily on the final day. In fact, he failed to catch a keeper, while Hains caught six that weighed 12-12, giving him 45-4 for the tournament and the win.

To add financial injury to the Chamblee's insult, the 1975 Classic was winner-take-all — the last of five such championships — and Hains got every nickel of the \$15,000 prize money.

1989

If you look at the list of Classic winners, you'll see that Hank Parker won the 1989 contest, but if you

check a little more closely you'll find that it's the championship Jim Bitter lost. In the annals of bass fishing, no other angler and fish exemplify "the agony of defeat" quite like Bitter and a small keeper bass from the final round.

B.A.S.S.

Jim Bitter has a good grip on this bass.

Not only did Bitter lead the first two days of the 1989 Classic, he also had the heaviest catch on both days. With a lead of nearly 4 pounds going into the final day of some tough fishing on the James River, he could sew things up with a limit.

And he had one fairly quickly. Swinging his fifth keeper into the boat, Bitter confidently walked toward the livewell, feeling good about his chances.

Then Tim Tucker, the late senior writer for Bassmaster Magazine

and Bitter's press observer for the day, asked if he was sure the fish was 12 inches long.

Well, Bitter was pretty sure, but not certain, so he stepped back toward the bow of the boat, measured the fish — it was comfortably over 12 inches — and turned to take it to the livewell.

Just at that moment, the fish twisted slightly in his hand, and Bitter continue to the next page



Jim Duckworth hunted in Ohio.

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dropped it. It hit the gunnel of the boat and bounced back into the river. It was the last bass he caught all day.

Back at the weigh-in, Bitter watched in horror as his catch fell two ounces short of Hank Parker's three-day total. Bitter had the win in hand —quite literally—but it slipped away. Almost 25 years later it is still the biggest blunder in tournament fishing history, and Bitter ranks as the Bill Buckner of fishing, a great competitor best known for one unfortunate moment.

1990

Aaron Martens gets a lot of publicity by virtue of his four runner-up finishes in the Bassmaster Classic, and it's true that the Natural has had his share of close calls. But Tommy Biffle may be even more deserving of the bridesmaid title in bass championships. Not only has he finished second in two Classics, but he's done it three other times in the FLW championship.

It all started in 1990 on the James

River. That was the third straight year bass fishing's greatest championship was held on the Virginia waterway, and each of the previous two events had been won in difficult to reach backwaters. Biffle figured the trend would hold and was catching his bass far up the Appomattox River. He took the first round lead by pitching jigs and worms to shallow cover.

Ken Duke

In 2013, Tommy Biffle hopes to exorcise the demons that cost him the 1990 Classic.

By the time the second round ended, Biffle had padded his lead and was up by 6 pounds, 10 ounces. It was clearly his tournament to win.

Unfortunately for Biffle, his productive area was getting muddy due to boat traffic, and he had no backup plan. Rather than abandon the area that had produced his lead, he decided to stick with it and boat-ed just one bass weighing 1-14.

It wasn't enough.

That Biffle would be passed after

struggling in the finals might not be so shocking except for how it happened and who went on to win the tournament.

Rick Clunn ended the first day in 14th place, nearly nine pounds behind the leader. Things didn't get any better on Day 2, either. He had a limit, but they weighed less than seven pounds and that put him in 10th place, 9-10 behind Biffle. If Clunn was going to have a chance, everything would have to go his way.

Not only did Biffle struggle in the finals —along with just about everyone between Clunn and the leader—but Clunn had the best day of the tournament. He was in “the zone,” working his square bill crankbaits around cypress trunks and knees for a limit that weighed 18-7. Not only was it enough to surpass Biffle, but it eclipsed him by almost seven pounds!



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Raymond Snyder, from Ridgeley, used a bow in Logan Co. for a 12 pt.



Tim Payton's 498 pound black bear had a huge head. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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A real nice buck was checked in.  
 Photo courtesy of Mr. Clean in Glenville.

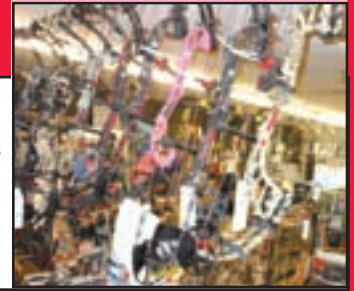
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Savanah Moneypenny brought in a good buck. Photo courtesy of Tri Lakes in Walkersville.



Robert Lane had success with this nice buck. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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## Parks Offer Sweetheart Deals

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Valentine’s Day, February 14, falls on a Thursday on 2013, and West Virginia State Parks are offering special Sweetheart Deals before, during and after that special day. Here are some examples of what park guests and visitors will find at these West Virginia State Parks:

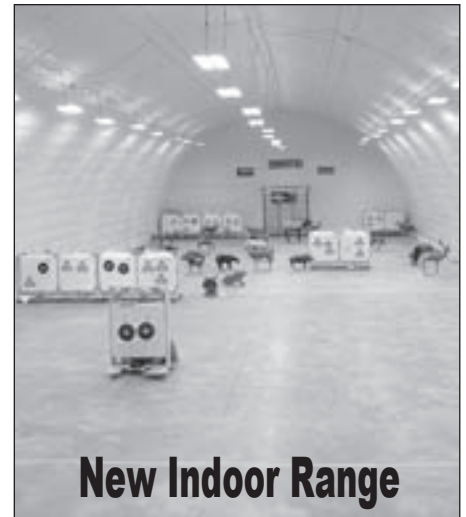
February 8-10 - Sweetheart Weekend at Pipestem Resort State Park

This weekend will include two nights lodging at McKeever Lodge, dance lessons for the weekend, and dinner on Saturday evening for

two. The cost for this package is \$157.56 for single or \$215.80 for 2 people. This price includes taxes and gratuity. There will be a cash bar available on Saturday evening. DJ for the weekend is Sean Ritchie from Oak Hill, W.Va. To make reservations, please call 304-466-1800. Information about the event and Pipestem State Park is online at [www.pipestemresort.com/special.html](http://www.pipestemresort.com/special.html).

February 8-10 - Sweetheart Weekend at North Bend State Park

continue to the next page



### New Indoor Range

The Bow Shop - see ad above - has opened its new location. A true 50 yard shot is available.

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**PHOTOS WILL  
BE RETURNED**



This will be a special weekend to share at one of the state's most romantic parks. The schedule includes dinner and the Sweetheart Dance on Saturday evening. Participants also may schedule hikes, crafts, tours, and more. An overnight package is available. Reservations are required and it is recommended they be made soon as this weekend event books quickly. Call 304-643-2931. Information about North Bend is available online at [www.northbendsp.com/Special/special.html](http://www.northbendsp.com/Special/special.html).

February 8-10 - Sweetheart Weekend at Twin Falls Resort State Park

Celebrate this romantic time of the year with dinner, dancing, singing, and games. From earning



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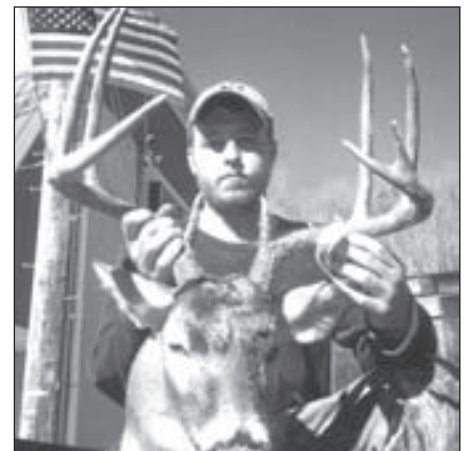
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'sweet cash' and spending it at the 'blinded by love' auction to the four dance and great dinner, anyone attending this event will have a great weekend. A two-night packages at the lodge, dinner for two, dance, additional activities and prices is \$256 per couple with cabin options available. Reservations are strongly suggested. Call 304-294-4000 for event details and to make reservations. More information about Twin Falls Resort is online at [www.twinfallsresort.com/calendar.html](http://www.twinfallsresort.com/calendar.html). February 14 - Valentine's Day Get-away at Cacapon Resort State Park Valentine's Day (Thursday) is a

perfect time for a romantic getaway. continue to the next page



A big archery deer was checked in. Photo courtesy of Uncle Tom's in Oceanna.

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February 14-16 - Boston Beanery at Tygart Lake State Park

The loss of a group booked at the lodge, is great news for people looking for a great meal and a weekend getaway option. The Boston Beanery at Tygart Lake lodge has created a 2-for- \$29.99 Sweetheart Dinner Special for four evenings that features appetiz-



Bill Fritzman weighed this catfish at 77 pounds from the Ohio River. That would have been a state record. Wasn't seen in time.

ers, dinner entrée options and the Chocolate Lover's Delight as a meal finale. Tygart Lake Lodge is now open year-round and a vacation cabin is also open in the winter months. For more information about Tygart Lake and events this winter, visit [www.tygartlake.com](http://www.tygartlake.com) or call 304-265-6144.

February 14 - Dinner with a View

at Hawks Nest State Park

Hawks Nest State Park lodge and restaurant guests can throw kisses to the New River Gorge from the perch overlooking this popular scenic wonder. The restaurant is featuring a candlelight dinner with live music, chocolate and long stemmed roses on February 14, Valentine's

continue to the next page

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Day. From 4 until 9 p.m. a five-course dinner is planned with multiple entrée options. To learn more about Hawks Nest State Park lodge and restaurant, visit [www.hawk-snestsp.com](http://www.hawk-snestsp.com) or call 304-658-5212 for reservations.

February 14 – Valentine Sweetheart Buffet at Canaan Valley or Sleigh Rides on the Weekend

The Hickory Dining Room at Canaan Valley lodge will have special dinner options for Valentine Thursday. But for people looking for a romantic outdoor treat, the weekend option on Friday or Saturday is a horse-drawn sleigh ride. This new activity is available as natural snow permits and departs from the tube park area. The rides are offered from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and advance reservations are accepted by phoning 304-866-4121 x Ext 1. There is a fee. Visit [www.canaanresort.com](http://www.canaanresort.com) for snow and ski reports, specials and sweetheart suggestions.

February 15 - Valentine Dinner and “Elvis” at Chief Logan Lodge

Don’t get all shook up if you missed Valentine’s Day! Chief Logan Lodge has a Valentine’s dinner and show scheduled for Friday, February 15, this year. Enjoy dinner, a show by Wrenn Mangum, an “Elvis” impersonator, and overnight accommodations at Chief Logan Lodge.

Make reservations for a king or queen room for Friday or for Friday and Saturday; enjoy dinner at 6:30 p.m. and show at 8 p.m. on Friday evening. One-night package rate for two people is \$115; two-night package for two people is \$165. Overnight guests enjoy express breakfast for two. For dinner and Elvis-‘50s Show only, the cost is \$65 for two people. Reservations are required. For more information continue to the next page

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Caden Fritzman reeled in a big Ohio River drum.



George Lindenthal Jr. shot a huge Braxton Co. 11 point buck.

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about Chief Logan Lodge and facilities, call 304-855-6100 or visit online [www.chiefloganlodge.com](http://www.chiefloganlodge.com). February 15 - Luminaries Sweetheart Hike at Blackwater Falls State Park

Bundle up and bring your sweetheart on a leisurely stroll along forest road 13 to Lindy Point trail in the soft light of dusk. Meet at the Sled Run Building to depart. The hike will follow the trail for about three miles. The hike is informal with a park naturalist available to answer questions. Pre-registration not required. Call 304-259-4833 for trail condition information 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Blackwater Falls lodge and restaurant are open. For more information about Blackwater Falls State Park, visit online [www.blackwaterfalls.com/special](http://www.blackwaterfalls.com/special).

htm or call 304-259-5216.

February 15 or 16 – Stonewall Resort – Retreat has options

Retreat to romance is the weekend suggestion at Stonewall Resort. The park is offering a special Valentine's Retreat to Romance that includes overnight accommodations, dinner for two at Stillwaters with menu's posted online, live entertainment, the popular cookie bar and champagne fountain in the Grand Hall, breakfast and unlimited use of the Jacuzzis, steam room and sauna. For reservations or greater detail, visit [www.stonewallresort.com](http://www.stonewallresort.com) or call 304-269-7400.

Find Valentine and Sweetheart events and more special weekend packages and programs at [www.wvstateparks.com](http://www.wvstateparks.com), Event Calendar. For restaurant information, click the Where to Stay tab on individual park webpages.

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Logan Oldaker went to the West Fork for this 37" musky.

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**Info On Page 3**



## New State Record Yellow Perch

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The new state weight record for yellow perch now belongs to Joshua Wayne Estes of Hurricane, W.Va., according to Frank Jezioro, Director of the Division of Natural Resources. Estes caught the 14.5-inch, 1.93-pound fish at Summersville Lake in Nicholas County on December 1, 2012, using a live chub for bait.

His catch establishes a new West Virginia record for weight. The previous weight record for yellow perch was 1.83 pounds, caught by Charles Mayle from Tygart Lake in Taylor County in 1985. The length record for yellow perch of 15.44 inches still stands and was caught by Craig Hollandsworth from Summersville Lake in 2010.

Anglers who believe that they have caught a state record fish should check the record listing in the current West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Fishing Regulations brochure. The brochure also outlines the procedure to follow for reporting a state record catch. This information is also available online at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).

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Brandon Lloyd, from Parkersburg, shot a 10 point in Ritchie Co. This buck had long times.



Mathew Martin went to Ritchie Co. for this 8 point. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

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Marvis Leigh, from Helvetia, used a bow for this 8 point.



Ronnie Bennett landed a nice New River musky.

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Form Is On Page 13**

## West Virginia Fall Turkey Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Preliminary figures for the 2012 fall turkey hunting season show a harvest of 1,233 turkeys, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The 2012 harvest was four percent higher than the 1,186 birds checked in during the 2011 fall season and three percent higher than the five-year average. Three districts saw increases above average harvests, while the other three districts had slight decreases.

“Fall wild turkey harvests are highly influenced by hunter participation, annual recruitment of young turkeys and hard mast conditions,” said Taylor. “The above-average but scattered acorn crop of 2012 concentrated birds in areas of abundant mast, making those birds somewhat more susceptible to har-

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vest, especially in our non-traditional, fall hunting counties.”

Top counties for 2012 were Greenbrier (139), Nicholas (98), Randolph (91), Monroe (89) and Summers (71). The traditional fall hunting counties, including Preston County, the Eastern Panhandle

and the mountain regions of the state, accounted for 56 percent of the total fall kill, which was almost identical to last year. Interestingly, these same traditional fall counties contributed only 19 percent of the total spring wild turkey hunting season harvest in 2012.

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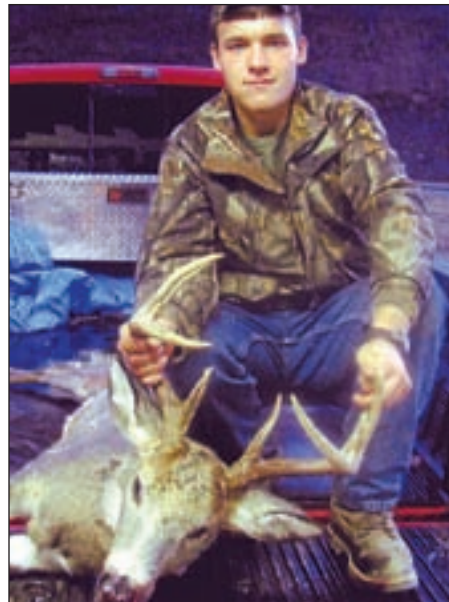
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BACK ISSUES FROM 2006 ON ARE THERE TOO



Kenneth Hughes used a gun for this typical 10 point buck. Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.



John Burgess brought in a buck. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



Eric Kay shot a big 10 point. Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.



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Brittany Cline had a great bow hunt. Photo courtesy of Uncle Tom's in Oceanna.



Mary Jo Adams used a bow. Photo courtesy of Anderson Outdoors in Buckhannon.



Brett Wolfe shot a 10 pt. Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.

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Paul Hackey hooked a big trout.



Trevor Lynch shot a 10 point buck



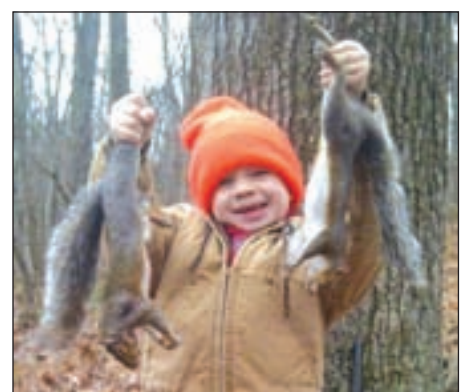
Cameron Rifle shot a 3 point buck.



Ben Walton shot a nice 280# bear.



Corey Thaxton shot a 4 point buck



Mason Nutter shot some squirrels.

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## Fly Fishing

Fly Fishing rods are long, thin, flexible fishing rods designed to cast a fly (see Fly lure), usually consisting of a hook tied with fur, feathers, foam, or other lightweight material. Originally made of split bamboo, most modern fly rods are constructed from man-made composite materials, including fiberglass, carbon/graphite, or graphite/boron composites. Instead of a weighted lure, a fly rod uses the weight of the fly line for casting, and lightweight rods are capable of casting the very smallest and lightest fly. Typically, a monofilament segment called a "leader" is tied to the fly line on one end and the fly on the other.

Each rod is sized to the fish being sought, the wind and water conditions and also to a particular weight of line: larger and heavier line sizes will cast heavier, larger flies. Fly rods come in a wide variety of

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Fly rods tend to have a single, large-diameter line guide (called a stripping guide), with a number of smaller looped guides (aka snake guides) spaced along the rod to help control the movement of the relatively thick fly line. To prevent interference with casting movements, most fly rods usually have little or no butt section (handle) extending below the fishing reel. However, the spey rod, a fly rod with an elongated rear handle, is often used for fishing either large

continue to the next page

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Teddy Wagoner shot a nice buck.  
*Photo courtesy of Anderson Outdoors in Buckhannon.*



Viola Plum went to Webster Springs for her good 7 pointer.

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rivers for salmon and steelhead or saltwater surf casting, using a two-handed casting technique. See Fly fishing.

Fly rods are manufactured by a number of companies and custom rod building is an active form of hobby among fly fishermen. You must treat yourself and visit a true master builder of fishing rods. They are magnificent works of art!

**Spin Casting Rods**

Spin casting rods are rods designed to hold a spin casting reel, which are normally mounted above the handle (See Fishing reel). Spin casting rods also have small eyes and a forefinger grip trigger. They are very similar to bait casting rods, to the point where either type of reel may be used on a particular rod.

**Spinning Rods**

Spinning rods are made from graphite or fiberglass with a cork or PVC foam handle, and tend to be between 5 and 8.5 feet (1.5 - 2.6 m) in length. Typically, spinning rods have anywhere from 5-8 large-diameter guides arranged along the underside of the rod to help con-

continue to the next page



Hunter Baron used a bow for a large buck. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.

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Adam and James Barnette went hunting in Braxton Co. for these two nice bucks. The one on the right has a nice drop tine.

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trol the line. The eyes decrease in size from the handle to the tip, with the one nearest the handle usually much larger than the rest to allow less friction as the coiled line comes off the reel. Unlike bait casting and spin casting reels, the spinning reel hangs beneath the rod rather than sitting on top, and is held in place

with a sliding or locking reel seat. Spinning rods and reels are widely used in fishing for popular North American sport fish including bass, trout, pike and walleye. Longer spinning rods with elongated grip handles for two-handing casting are frequently employed for salt-water or steelhead and salmon fishing. Spinning rods are also widely used for trolling and still fishing with live bait.

### Ultra-light Rods

These rods are used to fish for smaller species, they provide more sport with larger fish, or to enable fishing with lighter line and smaller lures. Though the term is commonly used to refer to spinning or

spin-cast rods and tackle, fly rods in smaller line weights (size #0 - #3) have also long been utilized for ultra-light fishing, as well as to protect the thin-diameter, light-weight end section of leader, or tip-pet, used in this type of angling.

Ultra-light spinning and casting rods are generally shorter (4 - 5.5 feet is common) lighter, and more limber than normal rods. Tip actions vary from slow to fast, depending upon intended use. These rods usually carry 1 to 6 pound (4.5 to 27 N) test fishing line. Some ultra-light rods are capable of casting lures as light as 1/64th of an ounce - typically small spinners, wet flies,

continue to the next page



John Smith's buck has a very wide spread *Photo courtesy of Bowlistic Archery in Chelyan.*



Robert & Todd Boroski, from Princeton, are very pleased with their bow success. They hunted on public land in Wyoming County.

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crappie jigs, tubes, or bait such as trout worms. Originally produced to bring more excitement to the sport, ultra-light spin fishing is now widely used for crappie, trout, bass, bluegill and other types of pan fish.

**Ice Fishing Rods**

These are typically very short spinning rods, varying between 24 and 36 inches in length, used to fish through holes in the cover ice of frozen lakes, rivers and ponds.

**Surf Rods**

Surf casting rods resemble oversized spinning or bait casting rods with long grip handles intended for two-handed casting techniques.



Ken Maynard used a bow in Mingo Co. for this unusual 10 pointer.

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Generally between 10 to 14 feet (3 - 4 m) in length, surf casting rods need to be longer in order for the user cast the lure or bait beyond the breaking surf where fish tend to congregate, and sturdy enough to cast heavy weighted lures or bait needed to hold the bottom in rough water. Some surfcasters use powerful rods to cast up to six ounces of lead weight, artificial lures, and/or bait hundreds of feet.

**History of fishing rods and rod design**

Judging by stone inscriptions, fishing rods go back to ancient Egypt, China, Greece and Rome. Prior to widespread availability of synthetic materials, such as fiberglass and graphite composites, fishing rods were typically made from split Tonkin bamboo, Calcutta reed, or ash wood, as it was necessary that they be made light, tough, and pliable. The butts were frequently made of maple, with bored bottom; this butt outlasted

continue to the next page

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Ricky Corbin got a 10 point buck. Photo courtesy of Old&New Sports in Ravenswood.

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outlasted several tops. Handles and grips were generally of cork, wood, or wrapped cane. Guides were made of simple wire loops or, later, loops with ring-shaped agate inserts for better wear. Even today, Tonkin split-bamboo rods are still popular in fly fishing.

Rods for travelers were made with nickel-silver metal joints, or ferrules, that could be inserted into one another forming the rod. Some of them were made to be used as a walking cane until needed for sport. Since the 1980s, with the advent of flexible, yet stiff graphite ferrules, travel rod technology has greatly advanced, and multi-piece travel rods that can be transported in a suitcase or backpack constitute a large share of the market.

Modern Rod Design



Brian Dickenson shot an 8 point buck. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

In theory, an ideal rod should gradually taper from butt to tip, be tight in all its joints, and have a smooth, progressive taper, without 'dead spots'. Modern design and fabrication techniques, along with advanced materials such as graphite and boron composites have allowed rod makers to tailor both the shape and action of fishing rods for greater casting distance, accuracy, and fish-fighting qualities. Today, fishing rods are identified by their weight (meaning the weight of line or lure required to flex a fully-loaded rod) and action (describing the location of the maximum flex along the length of the rod).

Modern fishing rods retain cork as a common material for grips.

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Cork is light, durable, and tends to transmit rod vibrations better than synthetic materials, although EVA foam is also used. Reel seats are often of graphite-reinforced plastic, aluminum, or wood. Guides are available in steel and titanium with a wide variety of metal alloy inserts replacing the classic agate inserts of earlier rods.

Enjoy fishing in 2013.

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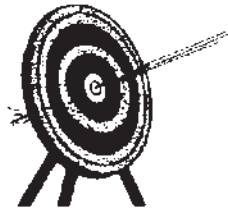


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Curtis Griffith went to Raleigh County for this impressive 19 pt.



Laura Wagner shot 2 ten points in Summers County on different days.



Feb. 2013 ~ Page 29



Michael Treadway shot a monster 15 point in Fayette County.



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A big buck was checked in. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



Rocky Mayle blasted a big 14 pt.

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Erica Newell got her first buck - 11 point. Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.



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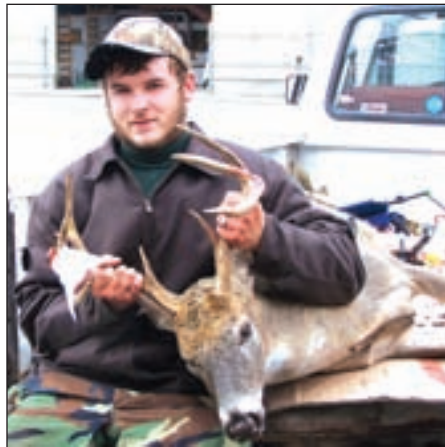
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Makayla Crump shot this deer - her 1st. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.



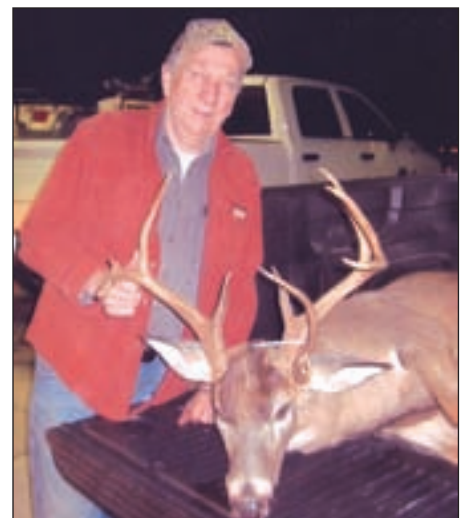
Shawn Atkinson shot a nice 8 point. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



Sam Sutton blasted a long tined 10 point in Wood County.



Thurman Goins went to Fayette County for this fine 10 point.



Dennis Smith shot a 10 point buck. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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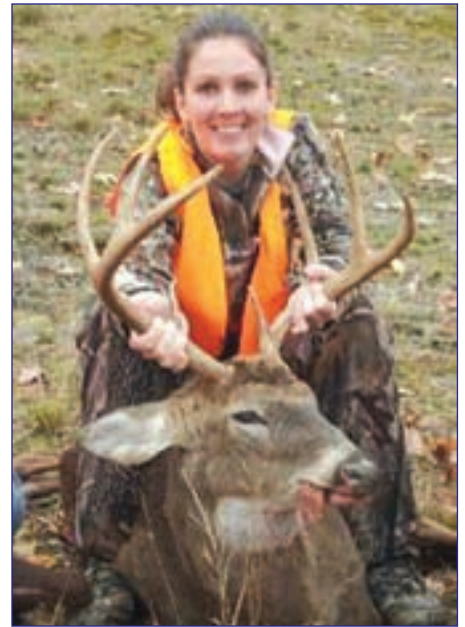


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Angie Starkey went to Upshur County for her nice buck.



Chuck Sams, from Ripley, used a bow for this great buck.



Glen Chambers went to Wetzel County for his quality buck.

## Record Black Bear Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia hunters harvested 2,685 black bears during the combined 2012 archery and firearms seasons, according to Colin Carpenter, Black Bear Project leader for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The preliminary harvest for the combined 2012 seasons was 34 percent higher than the 2011 harvest of 2,009 bears and 12 percent higher than the previous record harvest of 2,392 established in 2010. The black bear harvest of 2012 marks the fourth time in the past five years that the harvest has topped 2,000.

“As predicted in the 2012 DNR Mast Survey and Hunting Outlook publication, mast conditions had a tremendous influence on the distribution of this year’s bear harvest,” said Carpenter. “The statewide oak mast index for 2012 was much higher than in 2011 but the distribution was spotty. This fact, combined with two additional weeks of archery hunting, allowed archers to



Jordan McIntyre, from Mineralwells, shot a nice 8 point buck.

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locate bears effectively and led to an increased archery harvest.

Abundant oak mast keeps bears active into the winter and makes these bears vulnerable to harvest during concurrent buck-gun and bear seasons and the traditional December firearms season. Favorable mast conditions, combined with multiple counties open during September, led to a large increase in the firearms harvest.”

Hunters took 746 bears during the 2012 archery season. The top five counties were Webster (71), Nicholas (67), Randolph (57), Fayette (55) and Preston (51).

Firearms hunters harvested 1,937 bears during 2012. Hunters took 681 bears in September, 266 during the concurrent buck/bear season and 990 during the traditional December season. The top five

counties were Pocahontas (183), Pendleton (179), Randolph (163), Webster (151) and Greenbrier (148).



Ed Brooks took on this black bear. How cool is that!. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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**Reel.** A fishing reel is needed to basically let out and bring (reel) in fishing line. Two common types of reels are the 'spinning' and 'spincast' reels. The spinning reel has exposed spool and line and is generally affixed to the underside of the fishing rod. The spincast reel



Rick Reed has a nice buck. *Photo courtesy of Tri Lakes in Walkersville.*

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has covered spool and is affixed to the top of the rod. By either bail (spinning reel) or button (spincast) the line is allowed to be cast out. When the bail is flipped (spinning) or button released (spincast) the line can be reeled in. Both types of reels are affordable.

**Rod.** The fishing rod serves two main purposes. First, it is used to 'fling' the line, hook, and bait out to where the fish (hopefully) are. Second, it is used to 'absorb' the play of the fish, while at the same

continue to the next page



Paul Browning arrowed a good buck. *Photo courtesy of Uncle Tom's in Oceana.*

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time keeping the line taught. Without the `spring` of the rod, a sudden yank by the fish may break the line; and if the line gets slack, the fish may become unhooked. A `light` rod should be used for smaller fish, and stouter rod for bigger ones. `Keep the rod tip up` the best advice once a fish is on, so that the rod can `do its thing`. It is important that the rod and reel are compatible (for spinning versus spincast reels). Often they can be purchased together.

Line. Fishing line should be selected based on the size of fish being fished. Great multitudes of trout have been caught on `4-lb Test` line, some more on `6-lb Test`, and many, even some big ones, on `2-lb Test`. The nomenclature referring to the tensile test strength of the line. Lighter line can be `flung` farther; and more of it fits on a given reel. More important than the `Test` strength of the line is the proper use of knots, discarding line when

it gets frayed or damaged, and not trying to `hoist` a fish into the air with your rod and reel. Many a large trout have been (carefully) landed on very light line.

Floats or Sinkers. Floats or weights



Marc Hescht, from Parkersburg, went to Fayette Co. for his black bear.

are needed to `keep` the bait, or lure, where it is supposed to be out in the water. They also greatly improve casting distance by providing more to `fling` in the casting process. If the bait or lure is to be kept some distance from the water surface (say, fishing in a lake or pond), then the bait/hook can be set that desired distance below the float (or `bobber`). If fishing in a stream with current, or deep

continue to the next page



James Swenskie used his Hoyt for this Harrison Co. 9 pt. *Photo courtesy of Jerry's Sporting Goods in Horner.*



Mike Monacello & Bob Hook took some deer. *Photo courtesy of Tri Lakes in Walkersville.*

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in a lake or pond, sinkers (or 'split shot') may be needed on the line to get the lure or bait 'down'. In a fast moving stream it may take considerable weight to get the bait or lure where wanted. While bobbers and weights are perhaps the most 'non-technical' (and least expensive) items on the list of gear, they are very important.

Bait or Lures (with Hooks). Final-

ly, something is needed to attract the trout, and hook it. In the case of fishing with bait, a bare hook is tied to the end of the line, and then worm 'skewered' onto the hook. The trout bites or swallows the bait, and gets hooked (theoretically). The best all-time bait for trout is the night-crawler (big earthworm). Other common baits include (processed) salmon eggs, marshmallows, and



Jason Canada used a bow in Wyoming Co. for this great buck with stickers and a big drop tine.. Photo courtesy of Jason's Country Store in Saulsville.



Mike Wilson, from Arnoldsburg, bagged a 41 pound coyote.

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GAME CHECKING



artificial baits. Alternately, various lures (or 'spinners') can be used. Lures can look like bait, or they can be used to attract fish attention (spinners). Lures and spinners generally come with hooks. Some lures and spinners are effective in aggravating trout into attacking the lure. The trout will smack the lure with the side of his head, or with open mouth, and (hopefully) get hooked. Hooks are not to be used, however, to 'snag' fish. (Generally continue to the next page



Jeremy Reed got these deer in Kanawha Co.

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the only legal method of hooking trout is for the trout to engage the bait or lure; simply resting a big hook on the bottom of a lake and waiting for a fish to swim by is a 'no-no'.)

The list of not-so-essential gear is long, and especially if one is not budget-minded. Some might consider a net essential, and polarized sunglasses. Many invest in 'fishing vests' which have various pockets and places for various gear. A knife might be considered essential by some, and/or a boat, not to mention a fishing vacation to go along with the gear. Some might not leave the house without a stringer, or creel, to carry all the fish home with. Certainly purchase a license where one is required. But, on the other hand, even some of the most essential items are not all that essential. Not a few trout have been caught on a worm (or grasshopper) skewered to a hook tied to a short piece of line tied to the end of a stick.

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W. Va. Sportsman  
Details On Page 3**



A real nice deer was checked in.  
Photo courtesy of Mr. Clean in Glenville.



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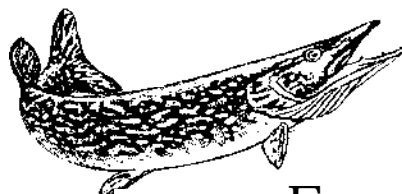
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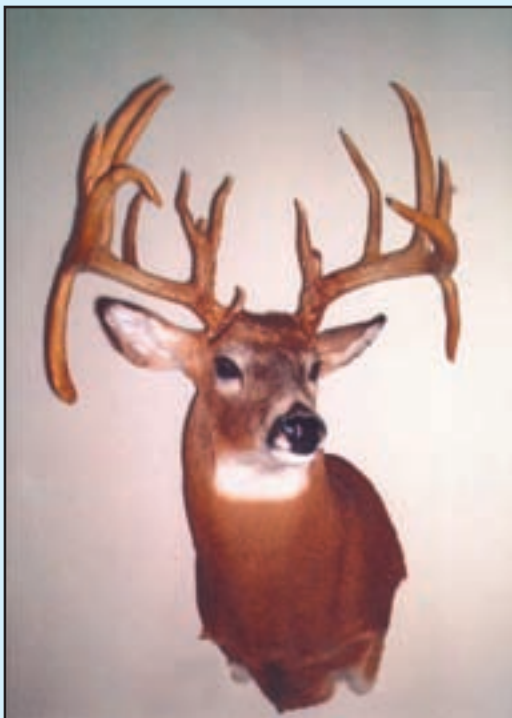
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A Whitetail taken by Andy Border, owner of the Great Outdoors in Ripley, shows the deer taking a drink of water. Just under the lilly pads is a small green frog. The piece was finished with ripples created from the water dripping from the deer's mouth. We added a crayfish claw for good measure.



These were shed antlers found by Sam Lambert. We bought a cape and created this stunning whitetail mount.

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