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Issue 205

March 2011



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Cover Photo

Big fish are known to bite in the early part of fishing season. Scott Burdette hooked this monster New River smallmouth. He released it after taking the picture. The fish may be near seven pounds by his estimate.

Big fish go after larger baits in the early season. Good luck this spring.

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Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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Deer Harvest Numbers Down

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Preliminary counts of game checking tags indicate West Virginia hunters harvested a total of 105,743 white-tailed deer during the recently completed bucks-only, antlerless, muzzleloader, archery and youth/Class Q deer seasons, according to Division of Natural Resources Director Frank Jezioro. This year's total harvest was 32 percent below the 2009 deer harvest of 155,214 and ranks as the 26th highest total on record. A total of 44,134 bucks, 34,365 antlerless season deer, 21,203 archery killed deer and 6,041 muzzleloader season deer were taken during the 2010 season.

Antlerless Deer Season

The 2010 antlerless deer season, which includes the youth/Class Q deer seasons, was 37 percent below 2009 and 29 percent below the 5 year average of 48,225. "It is important to note that part of the deer management strategy is to regulate the harvest of antlerless deer in individual counties to

raise or lower the future deer population," said Jezioro. The top 10 counties are: Preston (1,905), Mason (1,648), Lewis (1,297), Jackson (1,289), Monongalia (1,232), Ritchie (1,214), Harrison (1,199), Wood (1,198), Barbour (1,185) and

continue to the next page



Tim McKenzie used a bow for this 10 point. Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop In Parkersburg.



Terry Raines used a bow for this Wood Co. 11 point. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.

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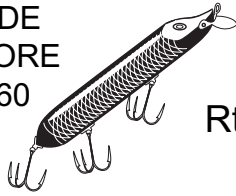
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Monroe (1,081).

Muzzleloader Deer Season

The 2010 muzzleloader harvest of 6,041 was 35 percent less than the 2009 harvest of 9,232, and 27 percent below the 5 year average of 8,290 and ranks as the 21st highest total on record. The top 10 counties are: Randolph (390), Preston (306), Barbour (225), Braxton (220), Mason (214), Lewis (196), Harrison (193), Wood (188), Monongalia (183), and Marshall (174).

Archery Deer Season

The bow hunters take of 21,203 deer was 26 percent below the 2009 harvest of 28,482, and 21 percent below the 5 year average harvest of 26,916 and ranks as the 21st highest total on record. The top 10 counties are: Preston (1,140), Randolph (1,001), Kanawha (687), Monongalia (686), Mason (677), Nicholas (649), Raleigh (589), Wood (565), Wyoming (559), and Greenbrier (524).

Trout Season

Stocking Changes

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has several changes for the current trout stocking season, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the DNR's Wildlife Resources Section.

Rich Creek in Monroe County will be back on the DNR's stocking schedule. Rich Creek had been removed from the schedule in 2000 due to land posting. Through the efforts of the local Rotary Club and its members, landowners along Rich Creek have agreed to allow anglers access across their property to the stream. Trout will be placed in Rich Creek at many of the locations previously stocked. Rich Creek will be

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stocked on a monthly schedule beginning in February.

continue to the next page



Chris Talbot brought in a coyote. Photo courtesy of Tri-Lakes in Walkersville.

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Blaney Hollow and Morgan Run in Monongalia County have been removed from the 2011 trout stocking schedule. Poundage had been reduced over the years as places to stock trout were lost. Only three locations were available for both streams in 2010.

Mill Run, a tributary of the South Branch of the Potomac River in Hampshire County, has been removed from the 2011 trout stocking schedule. Most of the stocked stream flows through private property and has limited access. The upper reaches of Mill Run, primarily above a natural falls, supports native brook trout, but conflicts between some anglers and the principle landowner have occurred for many years.

Mountwood Park Lake in Wood County will not be stocked until the lake level returns to normal. Repairs to the water control gates must be made before the lake can be refilled. Additionally, maintenance work is being performed around the boat launching ramp area.


New Creek Lake, Site 14, in Grant County, will not be stocked in 2011. The lake has been drained to facilitate repairs to the water-release structure. It is anticipated that New Creek Lake will return to the 2012 trout stocking schedule.




Fitzpatrick Lake in Raleigh County will not be stocked again until repairs to the dam can be made. The

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lake received its January stocking, but the low water level has significantly reduced the surface acreage of the lake. Stockings will resume as soon as the lake is full.

Anglers can call the Fishing Hotline at 304-558-3399 or visit the website at www.wvdnr.gov to find out which streams and lakes have been stocked each day.

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Mike Hutchinson used a bow in Ohio for this nice buck that had a drop tine. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.

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Gray Eckes got a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Tri-Lakes in Walkersville.

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Julie Brown went to Ohio for this massive buck. Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.

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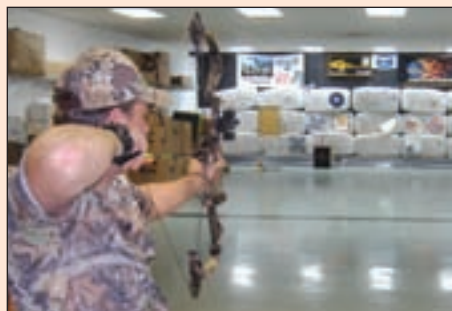


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NWTF Honors DNR Officers

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) recently honored two DNR staff members for outstanding service during 2010.

Wildlife Manager Harry (Mike) Eye received the prestigious Outstanding Wildlife Manager of the Year Award, which is presented annually to recognize and honor a wildlife manager who has demonstrated outstanding efforts in the management and conservation of the wild turkey and other wildlife resources. In presenting this year's award on January 15, 2011, NWTF Regional Director Bob Farkasovsky congratulated Mike Eye for his many years of service to the sportsmen and women of West Virginia.

“The National Wild Turkey Federation is proud of the work ac-



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complished by wildlife managers throughout the country,” said Farkasovsky. “Here in West Virginia, our hunters are most appreciative of the dedication and hard work that Mike and many other Wildlife Managers demonstrate every day.”

In 1989, Mike Eye began his career with the DNR as a Wildlife Manager on the Monongahela National Forest's Cranberry Wildlife Management Area (WMA). He transferred to the Monongahela National Forest's Beaver Dam WMA in 1991, and in 2004 he assumed his current duties as Wildlife Manager on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests’

continue to the next page



Aaron Moore brought in a very nice buck. *Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop In Parkersburg.*

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Shenandoah WMA in Pendleton County. In addition to his more traditional wildlife management duties associated with these WMAs, Eye has contributed substantially to the DNR's Wild Turkey Population Dynamics Study, Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project and Mid-Atlantic Gobbler Study.

"Mike Eye is an enthusiastic, efficient and dedicated Wildlife Manager," noted Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section. "His career has been one of service, and this is reflected in the many duties and accomplishments he has completed for this agency and the citizens of West Virginia."

Also at the banquet, Natural Resources Police Officer Ronnie Runyan accepted the State NWTW Wildlife Officer of the Year Award. Officer Runyan was recognized for his efforts and commitment to promoting and preserving WV's hunting heritage. Specifically, Officer Runyan was able to apprehend and successfully see through prosecutions of poachers responsible for hunting and killing turkeys pre-season, as well as for exceeding turkey hunting bag limits. Officer Runyan is assigned to Wayne County in DNR's District 5.

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Tommy Thompson, from Beverly, shot an 8 point in Ranolph Co.



Matt Coen trapped a 32 pound bobcat in Wetzel Co.

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WV DNR Seeks Paintings For 2012 Calendar

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section is requesting original wildlife art for the 2012 edition of the award-winning WVDNR Wildlife Calendar, according to WVDNR Wildlife Resources Section Chief Curtis I. Taylor. The deadline for submission of artwork is February 15, 2011. A high resolution electronic image or a 35-mm color slide of each entry must be submitted by this date. Artists may send in multiple entries.

“This is our 27th calendar and it offers a wonderful opportunity for artists to feature their work. Besides distribution in West Virginia, our calendars are enjoyed by people all over the United States and are sent to several countries around the world,” said Taylor.

Artists are encouraged to submit paintings of a wide variety of wildlife topics. These may depict popular game and fish species or feature the state’s diverse array of wildlife. Paintings depicting lesser-known animals such as snakes, frogs, tur-

ties, salamanders, bats, songbirds, small mammals as well as nongame fish are also encouraged.

Artists are reminded that the calendar format is horizontal with measurements of 14 inches by 11 inches and should keep this ratio in mind when creating paintings. Paintings not chosen in previous

years may be resubmitted. “Just because the artwork is not selected one year doesn’t mean it will not be selected in the future,” said Taylor. “Often, there are several submissions of a particular species and only one can be used in a given year.”

continue to the next page



Brandon Plumley caught a 19 1/2 “ New River smallmouth in Feb. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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“We encourage all artists, especially those from West Virginia, to submit their work,” said Taylor. A \$100 prize is awarded for every month’s painting and \$500 for the cover. Paintings are chosen based on overall composition and quality, along with anatomical and contextual accuracy. The quality of the electronic image or submitted slide is very important for judging the artwork.

The 2011 West Virginia Wildlife Calendar, featuring a perched adult bald eagle on the cover, is available at WVDNR district offices, newsstands, convenience marts and retail food stores throughout the state. For a listing of retail stores that sell the calendar visit: www.wvdnr.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeCalendar_Retailers.

To obtain 2012 calendar art rules or to purchase a 2011 calendar, please contact the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Calendar Art, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241, phone 304-637-0245. Electronic images should be emailed to: Jerry.R.Shinn@wv.gov. To purchase a 2011 calendar, make checks payable to WVDNR in the amount of \$14 for each calendar, which includes shipping and handling (WV residents add \$.60 for tax). Credit cards are also accepted.

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Young Nick Westerhaver, from Ravenswood, got a nice buck.



Andy Wayne & Matt Coen got a black bear in Pocahontas Co.

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Additional Deer Test Positive For CWD

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Preliminary test results indicate the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) agent was present in 10 hunter-harvested deer collected during the 2010 deer firearms hunting season.

“As part of our agency’s ongoing CWD monitoring effort, samples were collected from 1,056 hunter-harvested deer brought to game checking stations in Hampshire County and one station near the southern Hampshire County line in Hardy County,” said Frank Jezioro, Director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR).

The 10 CWD-positive deer included two 2.5 year-old does, two 1.5 year-old bucks, five 2.5 year-old bucks, and one 3.5 year-old buck. Nine of the latest positive deer were harvested within the borders of Hampshire County. However, one was harvested in Hardy County near the border with Hampshire County. The area in West Virginia from which CWD has been detected continues to expand, as evident with the latest CWD positive deer from northern Hardy County. The number of infected deer detected in West Virginia in 2010 now totals 22, two less than the number of infected deer detected in 2009.

CWD has now been detected in 83 deer in Hampshire County and one deer in Hardy County for a total of 84 CWD-positive deer in West Virginia. The DNR will continue to update management actions designed to control the spread of this disease, prevent further introduction of the disease, and possibly eliminate the disease from the state as information from deer testing within West Virginia is gathered and scientists

continue to the next page

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across the country provide more information on how to combat CWD in white-tailed deer.

“The detection of the positive CWD deer in Hardy County is discouraging,” said Jezioro. “As we strive to meet this wildlife disease challenge and implement appropriate management strategies, the continued support and involvement of landowners and hunters will be essential.”

An expansion of the current ban on supplemental feeding and baiting of deer in Hampshire County is being considered with the occurrence of this CWD-positive deer in Hardy County. Current research indicates that supplemental feeding and baiting of deer increases the chance of disease transmission far above the normal clustering of deer on natural and agricultural feeding areas. The DNR remains committed to keeping the public informed and involved in wildlife disease management actions.

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Record Black Bear Harvest In 2011

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia hunters harvested a record 2,392 black bears during the combined 2010 archery and firearms seasons, according to Paul Johansen, Assistant Chief in charge of Game Management for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The preliminary harvest data for the combined seasons in 2010 was 14 percent higher than the previous record of 2,069 established in 2008.

“As predicted in the 2010 Hunting Outlook, mast conditions had a tremendous influence on this year’s record bear harvest,” said Johansen. “Traditionally, favorable mast conditions lead to lower archery harvests. However, abundant food sources kept many bears active into early winter. In addition, there were numerous counties opened to extended hunting seasons designed to help those counties reach management objectives.”

Hunters took 454 bears during the 2010 archery season. The top five

counties were Randolph (44), Preston (39), Webster (38), Fayette (33) and Nicholas (25).

Firearms hunters took a record harvest of 1,938 bears during 2010. Hunters took 462 bears in September, 309 during the concurrent buck/bear season and 1,167 during the traditional December season. Top five counties were Greenbrier (219), Pendleton (192), Randolph (190), Pocahontas (175) and Webster (135).



Doug Jordan bagged a bear. Photo courtesy of Tri-Lakes in Walkersville.

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Brad Allen arrowed a nice buck
buck *Photo courtesy of JBC Archery in
Shady Spring.*



Larry Rogers, from Petersburg,
used a pistol on this brown bear.



Robert Lane hooked a very large musky on the New River in February. He caught four that day. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*



Zach Wilson shot a nice deer. *Photo
courtesy of Tri-Lakes in Walkersville.*

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James Hemmings, from Cedar Grove, landed a 45" musky on the Kanawha River recently.



James Woods used a bow for this Wyoming buck. Photo courtesy of JBC Archery in Shady Spring.



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Young Jonathan Johnson got his 1st bear. Photo courtesy of Johnson's Sporting Goods in Summersville.



Jim Beaver, from St. Marys, took a nice 8 point buck.

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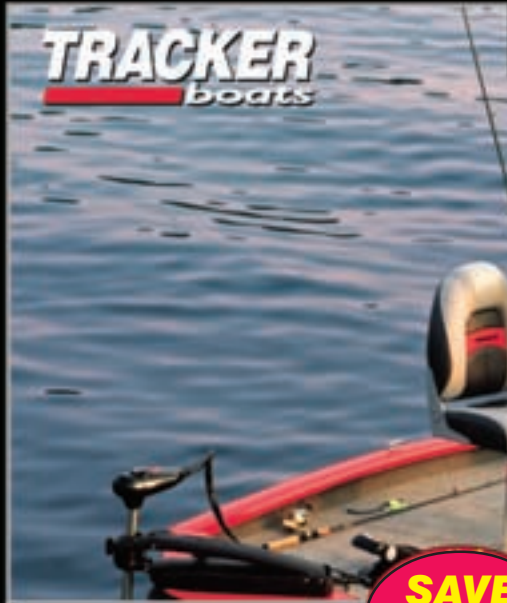
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Information will be used to better understand the muskellunge fishery of the Elk River and to help manage muskellunge statewide.

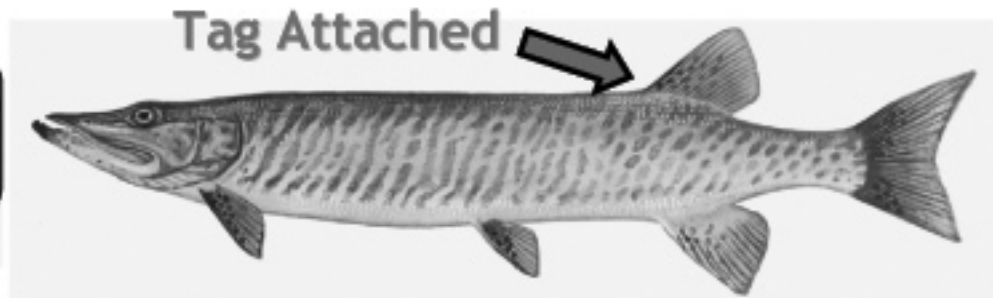
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READ THE ARTICLE ON PAGE 4 IN THIS ISSUE

VanDam Wins 4th Classic

NEW ORLEANS -- Kevin VanDam's closest competition expressed hopes that he'd slip up on the final day of the 2011 Bassmaster Classic.

Leading by more than 3 1/2 pounds going into the last day, VanDam caught 28 pounds Sunday, his biggest limit of the world championship, and collected a record-tying fourth Bassmaster Classic title in dominating fashion. His three-day total weighed 69 pounds, 11 ounces, the heaviest ever taken to the scale in a Classic with a five-fish daily limit.

"I don't compete to break records or for how other people may view me," said VanDam, who won \$500,000 to push his career earnings past \$5 million, also a Bassmaster record. "I love competition. I compete to win."

VanDam tied legendary pro Rick Clunn for most Classic titles and also matched Clunn as the only angler to win the Classic in consecutive years.

"He's obviously the best there is right now," Clunn said. "He's in that wonderful place you hope to reach when you start this. Kevin isn't going to beat himself. He's found that

space where only a few have been, and he's not even close to the last chapter of what he's writing."

James Overstreet

VanDam set another unofficial record for efficiency. VanDam's records came during a tournament that was shortened by fog delays on all three competition days. Instead of 24 cumulative hours of fishing time, VanDam had about 19 1/2 hours.


"The guy's an amazing athlete," 2003 Classic champion Mike Iaconelli said. "He's the best angler in the world."

Aaron Martens of Leeds, Ala., also broke Luke Clausen's Classic weight record of 56-2 from the 2006 championship on Florida's Lake Toho. But Martens' 59-0 left him more than 10 pounds behind VanDam, not enough to prevent him from finishing second for the fourth time in a Bassmaster Classic or playing Classic bridesmaid to VanDam for the second time.

"This is the easiest second place I've ever had, and I'm not just saying that," Martens said. "If it would've been closer, it might be different. But there's no stress, no remorse."

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VanDam and Martens fished within earshot of each other throughout the Classic, plying the waters of an area known locally as Tank Pond, continue to the next page



Kevin VanDam wins his 4th Bassmaster Classic in New Orleans.

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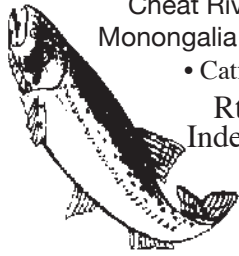
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a popular spot for recreational and local tournament anglers on Lake Cataouatche. It's a stump-infested backwater on the west side of the lake.

James Overstreet

Decades ago it was a freshwater lake that fell on hard times after tropical storm systems pushed brackish water into the area, killing its thick stands of cypress and tupelo trees. The stumps remain, and freshwater diverted into the area from the David Pond diversion on the Mississippi River, in conjunction with Florida bass stocking by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, has breathed new life into the area's bass fishing.

This week's warm temperatures

and full moon made it a highway for largemouth bass as they began a transition into spawning mode.

Over the first two days of the 41st annual Classic, the competition appeared to be shaping up as a battle between Lake Cataouatche and the Venice area. But Cataouatche won



Young Tyler Kelly, from Murfreesville, brought in a 31 pound coyote. *Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.*

by knockout Sunday. It produced four limits over 25 pounds on the tournament's final day.

The spot's productivity amazed even the best bass anglers in the world. Third-place finisher Derek Remitz of Grant, Ala., also fished there, hauling in a 26-5 limit on Day Three for a total of 56-8 that made him the first to surpass the Classic weight record.

Federation Nation champion Brandon Palaniuk fished near Tank Pond, too, finishing fourth with 55-7.

“We hit it a special week of the year,” Martens said. “Today was probably the one of the best days of the year fishing on the Delta.”

No one figured out the area like VanDam. He made a transition from a spinnerbait to a crankbait on Day Two, a move he credited for his victory. He found stumps by fan casting the crankbait and then repeatedly targeted them for numer-

continue to the next page

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ous bites.

Brent Chapman of Lake Quivira, Kan., who went into Day Three trailing VanDam by about 3 1/2 pounds, rounded out the top five with 54-8. Chapman was the only angler in the top five from the Venice area, which didn't produce like many anglers predicted.

James Overstreet

Fog played a huge part in that, with delays allowing anglers who made the four-hour round-trip run less than an hour to fish on Day Two. And when Chapman finally had a chance to work it over when Sunday's start was delayed only 30 minutes, cold water from the Mississippi River flooded into his small pond and dropped the water temperature by almost 10 degrees. "I knew the Mississippi River would be cold this time of year," VanDam said. "I made the decision to stay away from Venice because I figured there was no way you could fish there three days without fog."

VanDam, 43, has been peerless in his domination of professional bass fishing over the past decade. Since winning his first Classic here on the Louisiana Delta in 2001, the angler from Kalamazoo, Mich., has notched 13 of his 20 career victories, eclipsing the previous mark of

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19 B.A.S.S. victories held by Roland Martin.

VanDam has Classic victories at Pittsburgh in 2005 and Alabama's Lay Lake last year. He already held the Bassmaster record for career earnings and added to that total today to surpass \$5 million.

"VanDam seems to be quite a bit better than the rest of us," Martens said. "Sometimes I wish he wasn't here, but I like him too much. But I think a lot of us would do a lot better if he wasn't around."



Young Chris Washinger got a buck.. Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.



Jeramiah Whitlach trapped a big coyote in Wood Co.. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.

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Archery In The Schools Hosted At Gander Mountain

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section (DNR) will hold its next Archery in the Schools (AIS) Program instructor training April 12-13 at the Gander Mountain Store in South Charleston, according to Scott Warner, DNR's AIS Program Coordinator.

"Gander Mountain is happy to host another AIS Program training," said Greg Walls, store manager for Gander Mountain. "We've seen the success and growth of the DNR's AIS Program with the number of kids coming into our archery department. We are very happy to be assisting schools in the Kanawha Valley, and elsewhere by hosting this training."

The AIS Program is the DNR's largest and fastest growing educational program. Since its inception in 2004, approximately 50,000 students have been introduced to archery as part of their physical education (PE) classes in 230 West Virginia schools. The pro-



Several big musky were caught on the New River in February. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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gram teaches Olympic-style target archery in both public and private schools' Grade 4-12 PE classes.

"However, in order for schools to have the AIS Program, they must first have a certified instructor – preferably a PE instructor or coach who will introduce as many kids as possible to the joys of target archery," said Warner. "The DNR has about four trainings a year; and, because class size is limited to 25, training slots are highly sought after. To ensure a training slot, we encourage PE teachers and coaches to apply as soon as possible, even before the April 1st deadline." As an added incentive, teachers taking this training may be eligible

to receive Continuing Education Hours.

This training will cost \$25 for all school employees and \$50 for non-school employees. This fee will be paid to "WV DNR – Archery in the Schools Program" (via check, money order, or exact currency only) during the first morning of the training.

To register for the AIS training at the Gander Mountain Store in South Charleston please call Scott Warner at 304-558-2771; Scott.A.Warner@wv.gov

For general information on the AIS Program, visit the DNR's AIS website at www.wvdnr.gov/archery.

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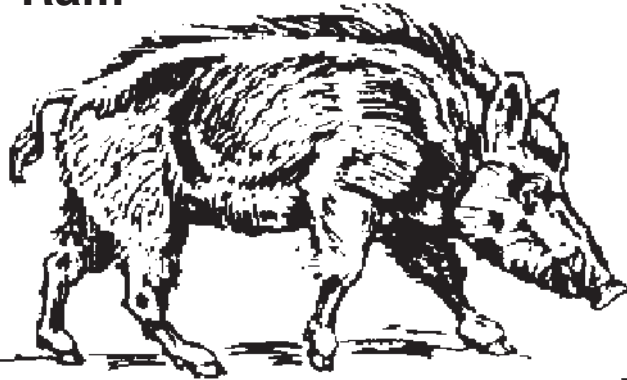
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DNR To Conduct A Hunter Survey

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources has contracted Responsive Management to conduct a major hunter survey, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the DNR Wildlife Resources Section. Responsive Management will use a random telephone survey in February and March to conduct the study.

“It is essential to have an accurate estimate of hunters by season type and county to make effective management recommendations,” said Taylor. “Responsive Management is a national leader in wildlife and conservation surveys and we have contracted their expertise to play an integral role in determining hunting participation across West Virginia. In addition to hunting

participation, we will be gathering additional sociological information pertaining to West Virginia residents’ opinions on the deer population in their counties.”

West Virginia residents that are randomly selected are encouraged to participate in the survey even if they do not hunt. “We are charged with managing wildlife for all West Virginians and we value their opinions. Therefore, even if you do not hunt, we would like your opinion in our survey.”

Results from the Responsive Management survey should be completed by late July.

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Lauren German, from Reedy, hooked a 7 pound largemouth bass last fall.

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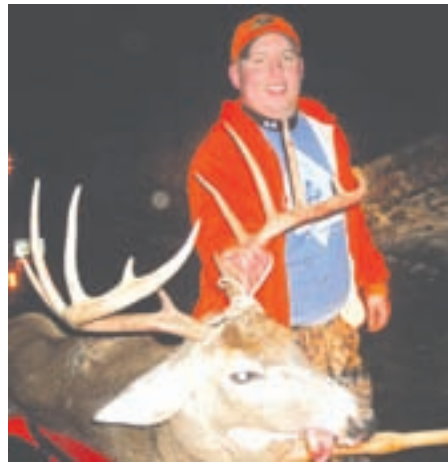
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Ben Smith, from Charleston, shot a big 12 point in Lewis Co.



Johnny Adams went to Wirt County for his buck.

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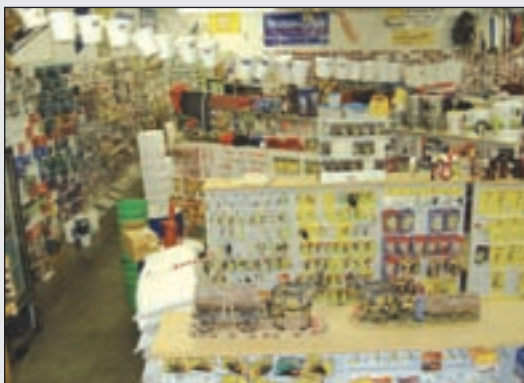
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Maddy McKenzie shot a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.



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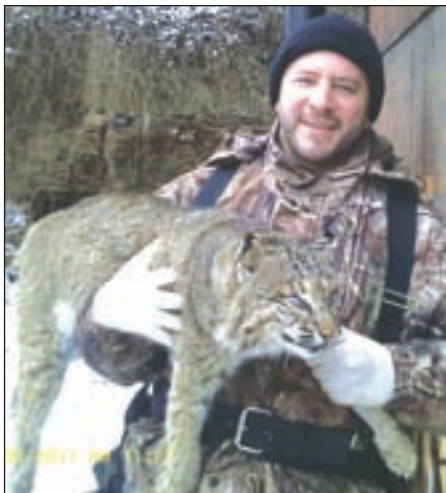
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Danny Burnette used a recurve bow to bag this bear. *Photo courtesy of JBC Archery in Shady Spring.*



The McFee's got some coyotes. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*



Seth Barnhart trapped a bobcat.

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Fall Turkey Harvest Reported

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Preliminary figures for the 2010 fall turkey hunting season show a harvest of 1,126 turkeys, according to Paul Johansen, Assistant Chief in Charge of Game Management for the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The 2010 harvest was seven percent lower than the 1,208 birds checked in during the 2009 fall season.

“Fall wild turkey harvests are highly influenced by annual reproduction and hard mast conditions,” stated Johansen. “The record acorn crop of 2010 had birds widely dispersed, many in remote, hard-to-access places which negatively affected the harvest in all of the traditional counties. Although there were 15 additional counties open to fall hunting in 2010, the harvest was still below the 2009 tally. Biologists had hoped that the additional open counties would slightly increase the harvest; however, the abundant mast conditions prohibited hunters from achieving

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the 2009 harvest.”

Top counties for 2010 were Greenbrier, with a take of 92; Preston (80), Monroe (59), Randolph (58), and Pocahontas (47). The traditional fall hunt counties, including Preston County, the Eastern Panhandle, and Mountain regions of the state, accounted for 57 percent of the total fall kill. The kill was down 20 percent in these counties. There were 231 turkeys (21 percent) checked in on the opening Saturday of 2010 (19 percent in 2009). The opening week tallied 44 percent of the total harvest, the same as in 2009. Good luck next spring.




Shawn McKeever used a bow in Monongahela Co. for a 10 point that scored 171.

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Evelyn Bunner shot a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



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New Boat For Fishing Season

Finally, it looks as though that we may just be finished with wintery weather. Sure, it will probably snow a few more times, but for the most part, the days are getting longer, with the official date for the start of spring quickly approaching, now is the time to take in a few of the outdoor shows and open houses that are beginning to happen.

Just a couple of weeks ago, I attended the open house at Freedom Outdoors, and joined 500 plus other dyed in the wool bass fishermen for what proved to be the one of the best open houses that I have ever attended. The first indication that the event was going to be a good one was the amount of tow vehicles parked in, and around the sprawling facility. I thought I was at a regional event verses just an open house.

As a parking attendant flagged me into bean open spot, I asked him...."Are all these trucks here for the show?" He just smiled and nodded "yes".

By Mark A. Garner

As I entered the facility, I was greeted by the owner, Scott. He welcomed us to the show, and from there, it was two houses of tall tales and good conversations. One of the better conversations I had was with our own Elite Series Professional angler that goes by the name of Jeremy Starks. I will continue a series of "Pro Conversations" in future articles, but we talked about the West Virginia and Ohio anglers, and how they fare on the national scene when they get to the regional, and championship finals.

We also talked about the new Skeeter FX20 boat with the 250 SHO Yamaha engine. Jeremy said this of this rig...." In my position, I can probably run any brand of boat out there on the market, but I chose Skeeter because of the FX20. I ran the FX20 in the last three events of the elite series, and I truly love this boat" His 2010 rig was a FX20, and his 2011 boat will also be a
continue to the next page

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Grant McKeever hooked a large steelhead in New York.



Tammy McKeever hooked a huge king salmon in New York.

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FX20 with the 250SHO Yamaha engine.

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After we wore out the FX20 conversations, I tried to get into his head about lure preference, drop shot techniques and the like. Jeremy was very patient, and when it was his turn to take the stage from Gerald Swindale, he proved that in

public speaking, he definitely is no slouch either. I know that the "G" man is a tough act to follow, but Jeremy proved why he is among the most talented, and respected Elite series professional anglers out there.

All in all, the guest speakers all made everyone get into the mood of fishing. At one time, I watch Shaw Grigbsy talk to a throng of twenty of so guys near the Triton section of the shop. Mike McCellan had the me thing going on by the Champion boats. Swindle was everywhere and Jerney seemed to also be high in demand.

All in all, it was a great show. In-

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fact, the show was so good, I ended up taking a new Skeeter FX20 home with me! See you on the water-Mark Garner



Young Devin Raines brought home a black bear.

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Don Vest, from Parsons, tagged a big 9 point buck.



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Governor's One Shot Program Raises Money

CHARLESTON, W.Va.— Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin today announced the Governor's One Shot Whitetail Deer Hunt raised a record \$75,000 in donations for the Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) program. The event, held Dec. 5 and 6 at Stonewall Jackson Resort State Park in Lewis County, has been held the past four years to raise money for HHH, which is administered by the Division of Natural Resources.

"The Governor's One Shot Committee set a very ambitious monetary goal for last year's event and I congratulate them on their success," Gov. Tomblin said during a check presentation at the Capitol on March 2. "I also want to thank all those who participated, from the hunters to the business sponsors, because they put food on the table for many West Virginia families. "

The first event, held in 2007, raised \$17,000, the second in 2008 raised \$35,000, and the third in 2009 raised \$50,000.

The HHH program allows hunters to donate legally-harvested deer to certified processors so the meat can be distributed to soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, senior centers, missions, churches and community centers around the state. The HHH program has been highly successful since it began in 1992, providing more than 100,000 meals to the neediest of West Virginians. However, the program also requires cash donations to pay for processing and distribution costs to benefit these needy individuals.

The One Shot event is sponsored by DNR and the One Shot Committee. All venison from the hunt, along with profits from the spon-

sorships, goes to HHH.

Gov. Tomblin and Director Jezioro also commended the landowners who allowed the participants to hunt on their property, providing not only a place to hunt, but also

an opportunity to remove antlerless deer from overpopulated areas, and assist with the harvest.

More info can be found from www.wvdnr.gov/Hunting/HHH.shtm or by calling 304-558-2771.



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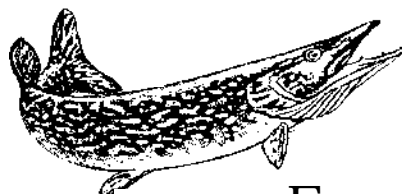
WVS

P.O. Box 5521

Vienna, WV

26105

E-mail wvsport@wirefire.com



Photos Will Be Returned

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10TH ANNUAL SUMMER BASH 2011



Held at the Legendary Pennsboro Speedway in Pennsboro, West Virginia
 Drawings to be held on Saturday, July 23, 2011 - Gates open on Wednesday, July 20, 2011
 Sponsored by & Profits to Benefit the:



ELLENBORO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

TIME PRIZE \$100.00 donation per Ticket

- NOON - 2011 Stratots 176 Bass Boat
- 12:05 - \$3,500.00
- 12:10 - Ruger Red Label
- 12:15 - \$2,000.00
- 12:20 - Browning X-Bolt Medallion
- 12:25 - \$1,500.00
- 12:30 - 2011 Camper
- 12:35 - Remington 700 CDL SF
- 12:40 - \$2,000.00
- 12:45 - \$2,500.00
- 12:50 - Winchester 70 FW
- 12:55 - \$3,000.00
- 1:00 - 2011 Ford Explorer 4 x 4 Limited
- 1:05 - Remington 700 VS SF II
- 1:10 - Ruger Hawkeye
- 1:15 - \$5,000.00
- 1:20 - Browning X-Bolt Medallion
- 1:25 - \$2,500.00
- 1:30 - 2011 Polaris RZR L/E
- 1:35 - Beretta AL391 XT 2 CAMO
- 1:40 - Remington 700 CDL
- 1:45 - \$2,500.00
- 1:50 - Ruger Red Label
- 1:55 - \$2,000.00
- 2:00 - 2011 GMC Sierra Crew Cab
- 2:05 - Winchester 70 FW
- 2:10 - \$2,500.00
- 2:15 - \$2,000.00
- 2:20 - Browning X-Bolt Medallion
- 2:25 - \$2,000.00
- 2:30 - 2011 Harley Davidson Road King
- 2:35 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 2:40 - Remington 11-87 Sportsman F RC SG
- 2:45 - \$2,500.00
- 2:50 - T/C Encore 12-Gauge
- 2:55 - Ruger #1 B
- 3:00 - 2011 Lincoln MKX AWD
- 3:05 - Remington 700 CDL SF
- 3:10 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
- 3:15 - \$3,000.00
- 3:20 - Winchester 70 FW
- 3:25 - Remington 7 CDL
- 3:30 - 2011 G-3 Pantoon 188 Cruise
- 3:35 - \$2,500.00
- 3:40 - Ruger Hawkeye
- 3:45 - \$2,000.00

Great Food & Drinks served from Noon thru 5 PM on Saturday, July 23, 2011, at no charge to Ticket Holder & ONE Paid Guest.

Visit www.ellenborovv.com for downloadable flyers with complete rules & order forms & more. Call or email us to request a flyer by mail.
 (304) 869-3244
evfd@zoominternet.net

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

Credit Card Orders ONLY through our website via PayPal (you don't have to be a member of PayPal in order to purchase our tickets through them. www.ellenborovv.com)



EARLY BIRD 1:
 20 Additional Chances of \$500.00 for 2011 Summer Bash ORIGINAL ticket stubs returned to the Ellenboro VFD by Noon on Saturday, March 26, 2011

EARLY BIRD 2:
 16 Additional Chances of \$500.00 and 2 Chances of \$1,000.00 for 2011 Summer Bash ORIGINAL ticket stubs returned to the Ellenboro VFD by Noon on Saturday, May 28, 2011

TIME PRIZE Prizes Valued at \$650,000.00

- 3:50 - Ruger Red Label
 - 3:55 - Browning X-Bolt Medallion
 - 4:00 - 2011 Jeep Grand Cherokee 4 x 4
 - 4:05 - Remington 700 BDL
 - 4:10 - Remington Sendero SF II
 - 4:15 - \$3,500.00
 - 4:20 - Beretta AL391 XT 2 CAMO
 - 4:25 - \$2,500.00
 - 4:30 - 2011 Honda 500 Foreman 4 x 4
 - 4:35 - Ruger Hawkeye
 - 4:40 - Remington 700 BDL
 - 4:45 - \$2,000.00
 - 4:50 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
 - 4:55 - \$1,500.00
 - 5:00 - 2011 Ford Super Cab 4 x 4
 - 5:05 - Remington 700 CDL
 - 5:10 - Remington 870 12-Gauge
 - 5:15 - \$4,000.00
 - 5:20 - Winchester 70 FW
 - 5:25 - \$2,000.00
 - 5:30 - 2011 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail
 - 5:35 - \$2,500.00
 - 5:40 - Remington 700 BDL
 - 5:45 - \$2,500.00
 - 5:50 - Ruger Hawkeye
 - 5:55 - Remington 700 CDL
 - 6:00 - 2011 Mercedes Benz GLK 4-Matic
 - 6:05 - Browning X-Bolt Medallion
 - 6:10 - Weatherby MARK V Sporter
 - 6:15 - \$2,500.00
 - 6:20 - Remington 700 BDL
 - 6:25 - \$2,000.00
 - 6:30 - \$2,500.00
 - 6:35 - \$3,000.00
 - 6:40 - \$3,500.00
 - 6:45 - \$4,000.00
 - 6:50 - \$4,500.00
 - 6:55 - \$5,000.00
 - 7:00 - Ten (10) - \$1,000.00 Winners (Match WV Daily 3 - Last 3 Ticket #'s)
 - 7:00 - \$100,000.00 (Match WV Daily 4 Exactly)
- Ticket #s 0000-1111-2222-3333-4444-5555-6666-7777-8888-9999 (Instant Winners of \$1,000.00)



Featuring the Davison Brothers Band opening for Bucky Covington on Friday, July 22, 2011, at approximately 7 PM. Only \$100.00, 2011 Summer Bash ticket holders (no guests) are permitted to attend the Friday evening entertainment.

- Tickets also on sale at:
- C & C Dodge, Marietta OH
 - Dodds Sporting Goods, Ellenboro WV
 - Ellenboro Floors, Ellenboro WV
 - PDQ Print Shop, Clarkburg WV
 - Country Roads Discount Store, Tyler City WV
 - Wilson Ford Inc (Butch Harrison), Whitehall WV
 - Chenoweth Ford (Patty Harrison), Clarkburg WV
 - Irvine's Camper Sales, Little Hocking OH
 - K & B Variety & Gifts, Grafton WV
 - Pifer's BP Service Center, Mineral Wells WV
 - R & J Shooting Sport, New Cumberland WV
 - Keith Shockey's Barbering, Parkersburg WV
 - Cowboy Concessions (Den & Rene Warren), Marietta & Whipple OH



GUN WINNERS MAY ELECT TO RECEIVE CASH OF EQUAL VALUE! - MULTIPLE CHANCES TO WIN ON EACH TICKET! ONLY ONE NAME & ADDRESS PER TICKET - YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN!

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