



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

Issue 231

August/September 2013

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Cover Photo

It was Fathers Day, high murky water and rainy. Only 13 boats showed up to fish in Moundsville. The rest possibly missed one of the great river bites of the season.

Steve Panas, from Wheeling, landed a 6 pound, 4 oz. smallmouth. He and his father, Mike, brought in a 6 fish limit weighing an impressive 19 pounds, 5 oz. Ten teams went over 12 pounds. All had a limit.

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New Bear Plus Deer Season

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Hunters are reminded that a concurrent bear season without dogs will occur from Nov. 25-Dec. 7, 2013 on private land in 19 counties, according to Colin Carpenter, Black Bear Project Leader for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

Barbour, Braxton, Clay, Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Lewis, Mercer, Mineral, Monroe, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur, and Webster counties will be open for concurrent bear hunting during the traditional buck-gun season by permit only. Resident landowners, their resident children or resident tenants who live on the land are not required to apply for a limited bear firearms season permit or purchase a class DS bear hunting stamp to bear hunt on their own land.

“Counties that will be open for bear hunting during the buck-gun

season are above their management objective and need additional bears harvested to achieve their goal,” Carpenter said. “Timing is critical when setting bear hunting seasons, and the limited bear firearms season will occur when the maximum number of hunters are in the woods. This is the first time that hunters in the majority of these counties will have the opportunity to harvest a black bear during the

continue to the next page



Bill Robinson hooked a 15 1/2” crappie. Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks in Burnsville.



Josh Perry reeled in a huge Summersville walleye.

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buck-gun season, and we hope they will take advantage of it."

Each hunter must fill out a separate application that must be signed, dated, legible, complete, and received by the DNR Application Section by Aug. 19. Successful applicants will be sent an "Eligibility Card" (permit) in October. This permit will indicate the county in which the applicant may hunt and provide instructions for obtaining a class DS stamp. Neither the permit, nor the class DS stamp, is transferable, and the county of hunt can-

not be changed.

Applications will be available at the following locations: online at www.wvdnr.gov; hunting license agents; DNR District Offices;

DNR Elkins Operations Center; and the DNR Main Office in South Charleston.

Completed applications must be continue to the next page



John Bird shot a black bear last season. Photo courtesy of Trapper's Den in Cowan.

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must be mailed to the Application Section, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241-0067 by Aug. 19. Details concerning bear hunting seasons can be found on pages 36-39 of the 2013-2014 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary.

Editors note: Never imagined that there would be a concurrent bear/deer season. I hear lots of bear sightings all over the state.



Jerry Wells & friend caught a stringer *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

Controlled Hunts Applications

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Two controlled deer hunts are scheduled in November 2013 at two of West Virginia's state parks: Blennerhassett Island in Wood County and Stonewall Resort in Lewis County near Weston. The Blennerhassett Island hunt dates are November 12 and November 14, 2013. Dates at Stonewall Resort are November 18, 19, and 20, 2013.

"High deer populations create environmental imbalance within the parks and subject the herd to increasingly poor browse and health

conditions," according to Frank Jezioro, director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR).

Monitoring and field surveys conducted by wildlife and parks managers led to the conclusion that harvests by controlled hunts should be implemented in 2013. Controlled hunts at both parks have been conducted several times in the past decade. DNR hunting regulations apply to controlled hunts. Hunting contributes to wildlife conservation while maintaining a healthy
continue to the next page

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deer herd population.

A separate application for each hunt is available online at www.wvdnr.gov, under Hunting, "Controlled Hunts." Hunting information is different for each park due to the nature of the physical location, access and eligibility.

Applications also are available at the following locations: DNR District Offices; DNR Elkins Operations Center; DNR Main Office in South Charleston; West Virginia State Park and Forest Offices; and the West Virginia State Wildlife Center at French Creek. Applications are two-sided with the application on one side and information on the reverse.

Completed applications must be postmarked and mailed to the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241-0067 by August 19, 2013. A random selection from applications



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received determines the successful applicants. Successful applicants will be notified after October 1.

For additional information about the Stonewall Resort Controlled Hunt, contact Stonewall Resort State Park at (304) 269-0524, or the District 3 DNR Office at 304-924-6211. For additional information about the Blennerhassett Island Controlled Hunt, contact Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park at (304) 420-4800, or the District 6 DNR Office at 304-420-4550.



A large smallmouth bass was hooked. Photo from 2fishwv.com



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PARTS & SERVICE

Spotlight Survey By The DNR

ELKINS, W.Va. - Over the next several weeks the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section will again be conducting spotlight surveys throughout 36 counties to evaluate deer population densities, according to Game Management Supervisor Gary Foster.

"The monitoring of deer population levels throughout the state continues to be an important component of the 2011-2015 West Virginia White-tailed Deer Operational Plan," said Foster. "The spotlight distance sampling methodology is commonly used by state wildlife agencies throughout the country to provide supplemental information on deer population densities."

Surveys will involve sighting deer along randomly selected roads

by searching adjacent fields and woods with spotlights. Surveys will not involve the collection of live or dead animals and will not involve personnel entering onto private property. Spotlight surveys will be

completed by mid-September.

For additional information, please contact the district wildlife biologist at your local DNR district office or contact the DNR Elkins office.

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The team of Coy - Daniels, from the Cyclone area, won the last Full Moon tournament at Summersville Lake. They brought in a 6 fish limit that weighed 14 pounds, 6 oz. They won \$1,150. The next event is Aug. 24 - 7:30pm to 7am. Look for an ad in this magazine.

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Young Caleb Smith hooked a nice New River smallmouth bass.



Aaron Bender caught a stringer. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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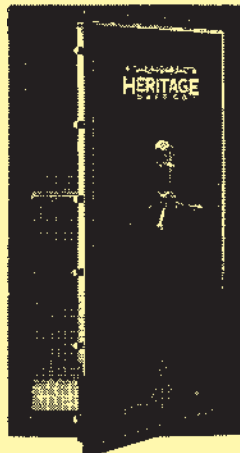
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2012 Big Buck Contest Winners

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) has announced the winners of the 2012 West Virginia Big Buck Contest, according to Gene Thorn, chairman of the West Virginia Big Buck Contest Review Committee. The contest is co-sponsored by WVDNR, Izaak Walton League of West Virginia, West Virginia Bowhunters Association, West Virginia Muzzle Loaders Association, West Virginia Physically Challenged Advisory Board and Toyota to recognize sportsmen and women who take an extraordinarily big antlered buck in West Virginia. This past year, 189 hunters had their deer antlers

scored at one of the six WVDNR district offices, field offices, or the West Virginia Hunting and Fishing Show in Charleston. Hunters entered 105 big bucks harvested with guns, muzzleloaders, bows, or crossbows (Class Y permit holders) which met the required minimum score for the 2012 Big Buck Contest.

Gun Category

Twenty-two bucks entered by gun hunters scored above 140 points (typical) or 165 points (non-typical). In the typical gun category, the winner was Michael Taylor

from Jumping Branch, W.Va., with
continue to the next page



Gary Holt, from Flat Top, caught a 23” rainbow trout.



Scott Snyder bagged a nice buck last season. *Photo courtesy of Trapper's Den in Cowan.*

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15-point buck harvested in Summers County that scored 169 5/8. There was no non-typical buck entered in the gun category this year that met the minimum score.

Muzzleloader Category

One muzzleloader hunter entered a buck that scored above 140 points (typical). No buck was entered that met the minimum 165 points for the non-typical category. William Crothers II of Mineral Wells, W.Va., entered a 14-point Wirt County buck that scored 173 0/8 that won in the typical muzzleloader category.

Bow Category

Bowhunters entered 65 deer that scored above 125 points (typical) or 155 points (non-typical). The winner of the typical bow category was Roger Maynard of Williamson, W.Va., with a 15-point buck from Mingo County that scored 170 1/8. The non-typical bow category winner was Daniel Light from Boomer, W.Va., with a 17-point buck from Fayette County that scored 195 0/8. Daniel's buck took over fourth position for non-typical bow kills in the list that ranks the top five buck scores for all time in West Virginia.

Physically Challenged Crossbow



Sam Criss caught a 16 1/2' crappie. Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks in Burnsville.

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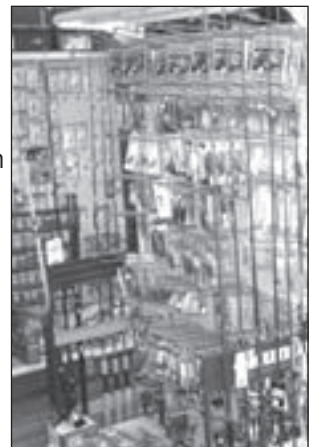
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Category

Physically challenged crossbow hunters needed to score above 140 points typical or 165 points non-typical to win. There was no typical or non-typical buck entered that was harvested with a crossbow this year that met the minimum score.

The winner in each category will receive a plaque during the 2013 National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration held the last weekend of September at Stonewall Resort State Park in Lewis County. A list



Landon Moore hooked a couple of catfish..

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of all bucks meeting the minimum qualifications is posted on the Big Buck Contest page of the WVDNR's website: www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/BigBuckContest.shtm.

"The Big Buck Contest Committee congratulates all the hunters who took bucks that qualified for this year's contest," Thorn said. "We also thank all the hunters who participated and had antlers scored this past year."



Jeremy Siders went to Lake Erie for a nice smallmouth bass.

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Antlerless Permits Offered

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Applications for the 2013 Antlerless Deer Season are now available at license agents, all West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) District Offices, Elkins Operations Center and South Charleston Headquarters, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the DNR's Wildlife Resources Section.

These applications may also be downloaded from the DNR's web page at www.wvdnr.gov. These limited permit areas provide antlerless deer hunting opportunities in counties or areas of the state where wildlife biologists have determined that limited numbers of antlerless deer permits are necessary to meet management objectives.

Seven wildlife management areas and three state forests (Beaver Dam, Blackwater, Calvin Price State Forest, Elk River, Greenbrier State Forest, Huttonsville State Farm, Kumbrabow State Forest, Little Canaan, Little River and Potomac) and 10 counties or portions thereof (Boone, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Mercer, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Raleigh and Webster) will have a limited number of Class N licenses for resident and Class NN licenses for nonresident antlerless deer hunting from Oct. 24-26 on private land only and Nov. 25-Dec.

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7, Dec. 19-21 and Dec. 28-Dec. 31 on private and public land.

Applications must be received by the DNR before the close of business on Aug. 19. The 2013 limited antlerless deer season will provide an opportunity for 1,150 residents and nonresidents to participate on the seven WMAs or three state forests. An additional 2,800 residents and nonresidents will be selected to

continue to the next page

hunt antlerless deer in the 10 counties that are restricted to antlerless deer hunting. Resident landowners do not need a permit to hunt on their own land.

For complete information on antlerless deer season dates and bag limits, consult the 2013–2014 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, which is available at West Virginia hunting and fishing license agents, DNR offices and online at www.wvdnr.gov.

Crappie Tips

Crappie is among the most popular sport fish in the United States. They are well-known by different names including sac-a-lait, white perch, paper-mouth and calico bass. Crappie is one of the most sought after to catch because of its great taste. Their white flesh is one of the most tasteful fresh water fish.

Let's discuss basic facts. There are two different species of crappie, white and black crappie. Crappie are closely related to the family of sunfishes and black basses.

The best way to distinguish black from white crappie is to consider their dorsal fin spines. Black crappie usually has 7-8 spines and white crappie typically have 6 spines. Distinguishing the two species by its color is not a reliable method. Black crappie has uneven dark

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speckles and streaks on their sides. White crappies have lighter colors and have unique vertical bars which can be seen at their sides. It's hard to distinguish the two species during the spawn, since both of them become darker in appearance.

Crappies are found in lakes and along river banks throughout the country, during their reproduction season, that is the spring season, it is also the best time to catch lots of them. Crappie fish are usually somewhat fertile as they reproduce fast in a specific period of time. Crappie populations are cyclical and unpredictable and are plenty in size. Crappie usually feeds from

dusk to dawn and they like eating crustaceans, minnows, insects and small fish. They can reach their size from 12 to 18 inches long. They can aged until 2 to 3 years.

Ultralight spinning tackles from cane poles are best used to caught
continue to the next page



Sawyer Lewis hooked a 46" musky at Stonewall Jackson lake.



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with most kinds of crappies. You can use live bait for crappie from medium-size to min. Artificial lures of various kinds such as small spinners ranging from 1/32 to 1/8 ounce is recommended for use.

Crappie are tasteful and can be cooked a different ways. Bigger

crappie is good for filleted while small crappie can be filleted or gutted and scaled. Crappie fish can be cook in hot oil and fry it for several minutes. It can also be baked, fried, or sautéed to experience the variety taste of it.

Have fun this summer!



Young Ethan Hornbeck and A.J. Cale bagged a couple of nice gobblers.

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Ty Cox hooked an 11 1/2 pound carp. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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Becoming An Outdoors Woman Workshop

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources announces that the fall “Becoming an Outdoors Woman Workshop” is set for Sept. 13-15 at Watoga State Park.

Have you ever wanted to learn a new skill but have never had the opportunity to try? Or, have you wanted to take up an outdoor sport but were afraid to purchase all the equipment and then find out later that you hated it? Well, the West Virginia Becoming an Outdoors Woman (WV BOW) program is definitely for you! Women who are at least 18 years old can learn a

new outdoor skill.

This fall BOW will offer outdoor classes that include archery, biking, shooting, fly tying, fishing, nature walks and outdoor cooking, to list a few. Registration is now open. The workshop costs \$150, which covers lodging and two din-

ners. Breakfast and lunch will be on your own.

For more information or to register for the workshop, please contact BOW at 304-558-2771 or billie.j.shearer@wv.gov. The registration form can be downloaded at www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/bow.shtm.

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Devin Casey got a 6 pound, 12 oz. smallmouth on the Coal River. Photo courtesy of Sport Mart in Charleston.



Chriss Forter landed a 44" New River musky. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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Anthony Corbin was fishing in a private pond in Berkley County. He landed a new record weight for rainbow trout. His weighed 17.31 lbs.



Kylee Peak was in on catching numerous catfish. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



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Waylon Kincaid, from Drennen, caught 5 1/2 pound largemouth.



Richard Burke, from Elkview, hooked a 20" smallmouth bass.

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Dwight Barnette, from Buckhannon, shot a big buck last season.

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Ti Anderson reeled in a pompano in Florida. *Photo courtesy of Anderson Outdoors in Buckhannon.*

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Anthony Crumbliss caught a 5 1/2 pound Stonewall Jackson Lake bass.

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WV Junior Wins B.A.S.S. Title

ERIE, Pa. — West Virginia's Henry Schomaker made sure he got one last chance to win a Junior Bassmaster World Championship (JWC) by clinching another Mid-Atlantic Divisional title at Lake Erie

Competing in his final year in the Junior Bassmasters program, Schomaker won the 15-to- 18-year-old age group and claimed his third Mid-Atlantic Divisional title by catching a four-fish limit weighing 12 pounds, 15 ounces. Maryland's Ryan Appleby won his first divisional in the 11-14 age group with a 14-4 limit. Both young anglers qualified for berths in the JWC to be held in conjunction with the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship in Arkansas in October. The 18-year-old Schomaker missed winning the 2011 JWC by 1 ounce and now has another chance at the title.

The 13-year-old Appleby caught all of his keepers on a Strike King Dream Shot in the KVD candy hue on a drop shot rig with a 1/2-ounce



Henry Schomaker won the Junior B.A.S.S. event this year.

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weight. The Junior Potomac River Bassmasters club member worked his rig about 22 to 25 feet deep along flats and humps. "I was letting the lure sit and let the boat do the work and every once in a while I would just twitch it," he said. "If I thought I got a bite I would lift up the weight off the bottom and if it felt like there was a bunch of weight I would set the hook."

Schomaker found some schools of quality fish in practice yesterday and came back to the same area today but he noticed there were about 30 boats there. So he and his partner, John Burkley, decided to fish the area in deeper water (32 to 42 feet deep). "We just kind of went around and would catch a couple then it would get cold and then we would run over big balls of bait (to catch fish again)," said Schomak-

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er.

The New River Junior Bassmasters club member caught his fish in the morning on a drop shot rig with a Jackall Lures Crosstail Shad and in the afternoon switched to drop-shotting a Roboworm Alive Shad.

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Ryan Isaacs landed an Amazonian tiger shovelnose catfish in a pond in Lewis Wetzel Park. Someone must have released an aquarium fish.

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B.A.S.S. On Facebook

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — B.A.S.S. hit a major milestone in July when its Facebook page reached 400,000 fans.

The company's Facebook audience has grown tenfold in only two years, since July 2011 when the page had only 40,000 fans. Since then, B.A.S.S. has focused on this part of the business, dedicating staff and resources to its social media effort.

"Growing our social media audience is really important to us," said Jim Sexton, B.A.S.S.'s vice president of digital. "It's been a great way to attract a new audience and to interact with existing fans. We have really focused on taking good care of this audience and on providing content they like."

B.A.S.S. now has more Facebook fans than Sports Illustrated or MS-NBC. "That just shows the audience for freshwater fishing is huge and growing," Sexton said.

The B.A.S.S. Facebook page provides a platform for anglers to post their own bass photos, share tips from specific lakes and communicate with the company. B.A.S.S. posts tournament updates and how-to information, plus polls and contests for its fans, on a daily basis.

Fans eagerly await the beginning

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of each week to see whose photo is chosen for the Monday morning big bass, in which B.A.S.S. features a photo posted on its Facebook wall and shares it with its massive audience.

continue to the next page



A nice Burnsville Lake musky was reeled in.



This young lady caught an 11 pound carp. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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In addition, fans can submit their bass photos to the Catch of the Week contest presented by Toyota on the B.A.S.S. Facebook page. Each week, one winner is chosen to be featured in a gallery on Bassmaster.com and on Facebook, and the winner receives Toyota gear and a Shimano reel.

The B.A.S.S. Facebook page has a rather young audience, 59 percent of whom are males under the age of 34. B.A.S.S. also has Facebook pages dedicated to its college (Facebook.com/CollegeBass) and high school (Facebook.com/BassHighSchool) fans.

On Twitter, B.A.S.S. has two official accounts, @BASS_Nation and @BASSHowTo. The primary account, @BASS_Nation, serves as host to popular Twitter chats with Bassmaster Elite Series pros. B.A.S.S.'s Twitter followers interact as much as the Facebook fans do, sharing bass photos and tips, as well as asking the company questions directly.

B.A.S.S. has ventured into other



Brian Holbert, from Ripley, hooked a huge Elk Fork lake bass.

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social media spaces as well, including YouTube, Google+ and Pinterest.

“Now we are looking forward to our next milestone,” said Sexton. He anticipates the B.A.S.S. Facebook page will reach 500,000 fans by the end of the year.

Stonewall Jackson Lake Changes

ROANOKE, W.Va. - The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources held a public meeting to receive comments on proposed fishing regulation changes at Stonewall Jackson Lake on July 11, 2013, according to Bret Preston, Assistant Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section. A catch-and-release regulation is currently in place for all black bass and a 30-inch minimum size limit with a two fish per day creel limit is in place for muskellunge.

The new regulation changes include a six-fish-per-day creel limit, one of which may be 18 inches

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or greater in total length for black bass, and a 52-inch minimum size limit with a one fish per day creel limit for muskellunge.

The public meeting was an open-house style meeting similar to the annual statewide public meetings held in March. The meeting was held at the Stonewall Jackson Lake State Park Administration Build on Thursday, July 11.

The commission later on voted to impose these new regulations. The weight factor ratio on bass in the lake was less than other lakes. This should improve the bass size now.

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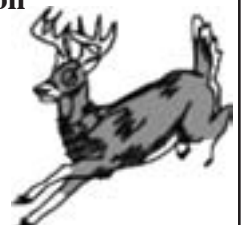
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State Park "Time Changes" In Effect

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – For the rest of this summer, visitors may reserve cabins at West Virginia's state parks for a shorter-than-normal time period. Effective now through Labor Day weekend, the West Virginia State Parks system is reducing the minimum advance cabin reservation requirements from a week to only a two-night minimum at all parks with cabins. While many parks' cabins are booked for the remainder of the summer into Labor Day weekend, several areas have openings on weekends in July and August, as well as mid-week.

Parks and forests participating in the "Times Change" cabin rental night program include: Babcock, Beech Fork, Blackwater Falls, Bluestone state parks, Cabwaylingo State Forest, Cacapon Resort, Cass Scenic Railroad state parks, Greenbrier State Forest, Lost River, North Bend, Pipestem Resort state parks, Seneca State Forest, Twin Falls Resort, Tygart Lake and Watoga state parks.

"Times change and we've been seeing changes in how far ahead



Scotty Cochran, from Eleanor, hooked a 42" flathead.

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folks make cabin reservations and also a greater interest in shorter term rentals as opposed to weekly reservations, which was the custom for decades," Caplinger said. "Over the past several years, the park system has liberalized summer cabin rental policies with many areas offering three or four night reservation options during summer as opposed to a weeklong minimum. For the rest of this summer, however, we're taking it yet another

step. We're reducing the minimum required number of advance cabin reservation nights to two, which should benefit folks looking to get back to nature before summer's end but for a shorter period of time."

Looking ahead past Labor Day, the park system always offers a mid-week cabin discount in September at several areas.

Learn more about West Virginia's state parks and forests at www.wvstateparks.com.

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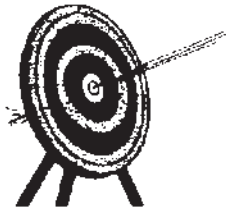


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Jason Hill hooked and released a giant Kanwha River smallmouth.



Shane Heater landed a 44 pound flathead. Photo courtesy of Outpost Productions in Burnsville.



Morgan Watkins, from Cross Lanes, hooked a 21 1/2" rainbow.

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Johnny Webb, from Spencer, hooked a 7 1/2 pound rainbow.

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Owen Dooley brought in a 38 pound catfish.. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



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Jameson Silman & Jake Linger landed two real large catfish. *Photo courtesy of Outpost Productions in Burnsville.*



Steve Skens landed a 6 pound, 3 oz. Kanawha River smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Sportmart in Charleston.*



Mason Waddell, from Putnam Co., caught 2 nice largemouth bass.



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Evan Welsh, from Morgantown, hooked a 13 1/2" yellow perch.

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Fishing Around Thunderstorms

The prelude to a summertime pop-up thunderstorm can turn the bass bite on enough for even a novice to enjoy the action. However, when the thunder, lightning and rain subside is the time that separates the weekend anglers from the pros.

“To understand what happens afterwards, you have to understand what happens before (the storm),”



Christy Nestor bagged her first gobbler this season.

says Bassmaster Elite Series pro Matt Herren. “Most of the time during summer, pop-up thunderstorms are like their own little weather systems.” During the dog days of summer, the heat and humidity build up to create afternoon thunderstorms.

Herren believes the prefrontal conditions of increasing cloud cover and wind and a falling barometer can have the same effect on lethargic summertime bass as approaching cold fronts do in the spring and fall. “That will trigger mini-feeds on those fish,” he says.

While fishing can be great during this time, Herren uses extreme caution when thunder starts rumbling. He gets off the water when he no-

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times the leading edge of the clouds nearing him rather than trying to judge the distance of the lightning
continue to the next page

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- April 14 - Sun - St. Marys
- April 28 - Sun - Moundsville
- May 19 - Sun - St. Marys
- June 16 - Sun - Moundsville
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- July 28 - Sun - Moundsville
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strikes. "You need to be cautious of summer storms because they just kind of bubble up during the head of the day and are bad about wandering," he warns. "They will circle and back up."

Herren usually heads back out on the water when the wind and rain subsides, but he still keeps an eye out for more foul weather. "You think the storms are cleared out, but there are times when you will be back out on the lake, and it will



Edge & Bintz brought in a 4 pound, 4 oz. smallmouth the day the cover photo bass was caught. Look for the Ohio River Team tournament information on page 33.

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be right back on top of you," he says.

The professional angler notices novice anglers make a critical mistake when they get back on the water once the storm finally passes. "Most of them fish the same way they did before the thunderstorm," he says. "They don't really evaluate what happens during that thunderstorm and how it changes the mood of the fish."

The Alabama pro believes a thunderstorm has different effects on the two dominant bass species in



Dave Albright shot a turkey.

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his area. "Spotted bass in the South will go crazy in the thunder and lightning but largemouth don't like it because they are a shallower fish," he says.

From his post-storm experiences, Herren has noticed largemouth move off of structure or cover, but are still suspended close to the spots they were holding on prior to the storm. Fish that moved up on a hump to feed before the storm have probably moved to the side of the hump to suspend after the tempest. "So you may have to back off and position the boat differently and fish a different level of the water column," says Herren.

"If you were using a crankbait that dove 8 to 10 feet deep, when the fish suspend you may have to go to a crankbait that dives 12 to 14 feet. Or if you were using a Carolina rig with a 1-ounce weight, you may have to go to a Texas rig with a 5/16-ounce weight for a slower

fall."

Bass in laydowns and other shallow wood also suspend at the ends of the cover where Herren tries to trigger a reaction strike by burning a small spinnerbait, buzzbait or crankbait. Swimming a trick worm with a 1/16-ounce weight or a San-



Wendall Mullins brought in a coon last winter.

tone Rayburn Swim Jig through the limbs of a laydown is one of Herren's favorite ways to coax inactive post-storm bass into biting.

When the wind dies and blue skies prevail after a storm, Herren has to resort to a light Texas rigged soft plastic or other finesse tactics since the fishing slows considerably. If the clouds continue to linger though, big fish will still bite. "Fishing around those storms will present an angler some pretty good opportunities to catch some pretty good fish," says Herren.

Just make sure you are off the water well in advance of and quite a while after the storm's light show.

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Brian Larch reeled in a nice musky.



Jake Weaver hooked a big largemouth bass. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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Antlerless Permits

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Applications for the 2013 Antlerless Deer Season are now available at license agents, all West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) District Offices, Elkins Operations Center and South Charleston Headquarters, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the DNR's Wildlife Resources Section.

These applications may also be downloaded from the DNR's web page at www.wvdnr.gov. These limited permit areas provide antlerless deer hunting opportunities in counties or areas of the state where wildlife biologists have determined that limited numbers of antlerless deer permits are necessary to meet management objectives.

Seven wildlife management areas and three state forests (Beaver Dam, Blackwater, Calvin Price State Forest, Elk River, Greenbrier State Forest, Huttonsville State Farm, Kumbrabow State Forest, Little Canaan, Little River and Potomac) and 10 counties or portions thereof

(Boone, Clay, Fayette, Greenbrier, Mercer, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Raleigh and Webster) will have a limited number of Class N licenses for resident and Class NN licenses for nonresident antlerless deer hunting from Oct. 24-26 on private land only and Nov. 25-Dec. 7, Dec. 19-21 and Dec. 28-Dec. 31 on private and public land.

continue to the next page



Dan Holdren hooked a 3 pound, 11 oz. tournament smallmouth .



Zach Ward reeled in a large New River carp. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



Regis Wentzel, from Wheeling, caught a 5 1/2 pound largemouth.

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Applications must be received by the DNR before the close of business on Aug. 19. The 2013 limited antlerless deer season will provide an opportunity for 1,150 residents and nonresidents to participate on the seven WMAs or three state forests. An additional 2,800 residents and nonresidents will be selected to hunt antlerless deer in the 10 counties that are restricted to antlerless deer hunting. Resident landowners do not need a permit to hunt on their own land.

For complete information on antlerless deer season dates and bag limits, consult the 2013–2014 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, which is available at West Virginia hunting and fishing license agents, DNR offices and online at www.wvdnr.gov.

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Hailey Lanham, from Montrose, reeled in a 23 3/4" largemouth.



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 State _____ Zip _____
 Fish _____ Pound _____ Oz _____
 Game _____ Bow _____ Gun _____ Pts _____

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Photos Will Be Returned



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*Plus tax & fees. ATVs over 90cc for riders 16 years and older. Always wear a helmet and safety protection, and take a rider's training course. Photos for illustration purposes only and options may vary. Due to time between printing and distribution, some units may have been sold. Also, many additional units are arriving daily. Offers expire 8/10/13.

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