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Issue 247

Aug/Sept 2015



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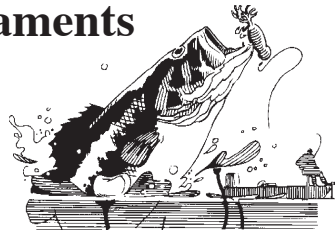
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Cover Photo

Rick Dunlap, state champion taxidermists from Buckhannon, has landed and released 16 muskies this year. This 48 1/2 inch musky was caught in the Weston area. Any guesses?

This magazine is now accerpting **TEXT** pictures. So many people have their cell phones as their only source for taking pictures. Now, you can text the pics to this magazine. Just call this number: 304-482-7217. *Photo courtesy of Rick's Taxidermy in Buckhannon.*

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Combatting CWD In Deer

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. —“As part of our agency’s ongoing management efforts to slow the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a larger portion of the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia has been added to the current area where artificial supplemental feeding and baiting of deer is prohibited,” said Robert Fala, Director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR).

Effective July 1, 2015, the area includes Berkeley, Grant, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan counties. 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. Lowering encounter rates between infected and non-infected animals by prohibiting artificial supplemental feeding and baiting are generally accepted management practices for slowing the spread of an infectious disease among wildlife. Initiating these

prohibitions is a major tool used by other states combating CWD. In these seven Eastern Panhandle counties it is illegal to bait or feed deer, which includes minerals and other edible enticements. Song and insectivorous birds may be fed, provided that such feeding shall not cause, or be done in a manner that would be reasonably anticipated to cause, a congregation of deer or other wildlife.

“The expansion of the West Virginia CWD Containment Area fol-

continue to the next page



A huge New River musky was caught. Photo courtesy of 2fishwv.com.



Chris Davenport used a bow to bring in a quality buck.

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crooked creek archery

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ows similar expansions of disease management areas in Virginia and Pennsylvania,” Director Fala said.

At a recent meeting hosted by West Virginia DNR at Cacapon Resort State Park, wildlife agency staff tasked with addressing CWD in their respective states of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio shared information regarding CWD and discussed ways to coordinate CWD management efforts on a regional basis.

“This information exchange between states is especially important with the current location of known CWD infected deer located in close proximity across the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia,” said Director Fala.

Deer hunters are reminded that dead deer or their parts may not be transported beyond the boundary of Hampshire, Hardy and Morgan counties except for the following: meat that has been boned out, quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached, cleaned hide with no head attached, clean skull plate (no meat or tissue attached) with antlers attached, antlers with no meat or tissue attached, and finished taxidermy mounts. Hunters may transport deer carcasses that



Seldon Rife bagged a 24 pound gobble with a 10 3/4” beard.

were not killed inside the containment area through the containment area.

CWD has now been detected in a total of 179 deer in Hampshire County and four deer in Hardy County. 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 across the country provide more information on how to combat CWD in white-tailed deer.

For additional information on deer baiting and feeding prohibitions and deer carcass transport restrictions please see the 2015-2016 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary available at DNR offices

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Aerial Tram Reopens

ANSTED, West Virginia – The aerial tram at Hawks Nest State Park reopened as planned July 31, following extensive repairs and upgrades that kept it idle most of the 2015 season. New electrical components and extensive installation work were necessary to keep the attraction operating at 21st century level.

The tram has been a classic attraction, giving visitors a lift into the New River Gorge and a return lift to the top for almost five decades. Aerial trams, like phone booths, are becoming rarer in today's world. "Folks visit Hawks Nest to experience an uncommon ride," said John Bracken, Park Superintendent.

Hawks Nest's aerial tram and New River jetboat excursions on the New River operate daily except Wednesdays through Labor Day.



Andrew Vanata caught a huge largemouth. *Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.*



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Labor Day through September, the tram and jetboat rides operate Saturdays and Sundays only. The tram operates in October from 11 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. weekdays and 11 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. weekends. Rates for tram rides are \$4 for adults, \$2.50 for youth 5-16 years of age, and \$3 for seniors age 60 and older. Jetboat rides are \$25 for adults, \$10 for youth 6-16 and \$23 for seniors. Jetboat ride fees include the tram ride. Jetboat excursions are operated by New River Jetboat, Inc. (newriverjetboats.com)

Hawk Nest's aerial tram was con-

structed and opened in the spring of 1970. Learn more about the Hawks Nest State Park tram, Jetboat Rides, lodge, restaurant, events and overnight deals at www.hawksnestsp.com or call 304-658-5212.

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W. Va. Sportsman
Details On Page 3**



Keith McCloy hooked a real big largemouth bass.



Steve Mathews landed a large flathead on the Kanawha River.

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Facebook Helps Catch Poachers

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Natural Resources Police were able to solve a deer poaching case in less than an hour July 2, 2015, thanks to help from Facebook users.

Three images originally posted to the social media network SnapChat show a dead deer lying in a creek with a trail of bright red blood flowing downstream, the back of a man walking away in a field with the caption “we out hereeee,” and a woman aiming a long-barreled firearm at the camera with the caption “poaching.” Officer John Casto, who manages the NRP’s Facebook page, posted all three images and asked the public for help identifying the individuals.

“Within an hour we had the individuals’ names,” Officer Casto

said. “Within two hours the woman contacted us. She asked that her photo be taken down, and since she was cooperating with the investigation, we did.”

The Natural Resources Police re-continue to the next page



Ron Bolyard took this bear in Preston County.



Jim Steiding took this great buck near Stonewood.





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*Offers valid from 7/28/15 - 9/30/15 on select new 2014-2015 Polaris Off-Road Vehicles. Youth models excluded. Does not apply to prior purchases. Rates as low as 2.99% for 36 months are available. Approval, and any rates and terms provided, are based on credit worthiness. Fixed APR of 2.99%, 6.99%, or 10.99% will be assigned based on credit approval criteria. 72 months financing available with rates as low as 7.99% based on approval and credit worthiness. Fixed APR of 7.99%, 10.99%, 13.99% will be assigned based on credit approval criteria. Other financing offers are available. See your local dealer for details. Minimum Amount Financed \$1,500; Maximum Amount Financed \$50,000. Other qualifications and restrictions may apply. Financing promotions void where prohibited. Offer effective on all new and unused 2010-2016 Polaris Sportsman, Ranger, RZR and Ace models purchased from a participating Polaris dealer between 7/28/15 - 9/30/15. Offer subject to change without notice. An example of monthly payments required on a 36-month term at 2.99% is \$29.08 per \$1,000 financed. An example of monthly payments required on a 36-month term at 6.99% APR is \$30.87 per \$1,000 financed. An example of monthly payments required on a 72-month term with a Fixed APR of 7.99% is \$17.53 per \$1,000 financed. See participating retailers for complete details and conditions. Approval, and any rates and terms provided, are based on credit worthiness. Applies to the purchase of all new Sportsman, Ranger, Ace and RZR models made on the Polaris Installment Program from 7/28/15 - 9/30/15. See participating retailers for complete details and conditions.

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ceived the images from an anonymous tipster. Posts to SnapChat are sent to a controlled list of recipients and disappear after one to 10 seconds. However, any recipient can take a screenshot of a Snap-Chat post, making it regular photo that lasts forever. Someone shared the screenshots on Facebook, and someone else who saw them sent the tip via Facebook.

“We’ve been impressed with how we’ve been able to solve crimes with the public’s help,” Col. Jerry Jenkins said. “The response has been beyond what we anticipated when we began using Facebook earlier this year. It’s become a valuable tool for us to gather information about crimes and suspects. It shows how deeply the community of hunting and fishing enthusiasts in West Virginia cares about protecting wildlife and enforcing laws.”



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Follow West Virginia Natural Resources Police on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DNRpolice. Permanent URL for post: <https://www.facebook.com/DNRpolice/posts/939143726127797>.



Carolyn Berdine, 8 from Williamstown, caught a largemouth bass.

TEXT Your 2015 Pics
Information On Page 38

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Colt Corder landed a nice large-mouth bass. Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.

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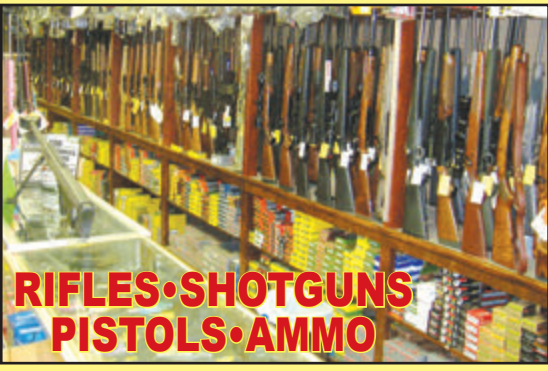
Chase Roberts hooked a large flat-head catfish.

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Lorna Gay hooked an Ohio River flathead catfish.



John Trunk, from St. Marys, caught an 8-11 oz Guntersville bass.

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Big Fish Pics
Form On Page 38

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Becoming An Outdoorswoman Workshop

MARLINTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) announces that registration is underway for the fall “Becoming an Outdoors-Woman” (BOW) workshop at Watoga State Park Sept. 18-20, 2015. This is an opportunity for women ages 18 and older to learn new outdoor skills.

“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? Then, the ‘Becoming an Outdoors-Woman’ program is definitely for you,” said BOW organizer Billie Shearer of the Wildlife Resources Section of the DNR.

The BOW workshop will offer outdoor classes that include archery, biking, shooting, fishing, na-

ture walk and outdoor cooking, to list a few. Registration is open with a fee of \$150, which covers lodging and two dinners. 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.

This program has been active for many years and offers much.



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Oil And Gas Concern

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife Resources Section has published a guide titled Enhancing Wildlife Habitat on Oil and Gas Infrastructure. The purpose of this publication is to provide information regarding management activities that will provide or enhance wildlife habitat associated with well sites, pipelines and access roads.

Paul Johansen, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section, recommends that landowners and industry use this non-regulatory guide to improve habitat for a variety of game and non-game wildlife. This includes those species that use the edges of developed areas, where natural habitats meet human habitats and animals and wildlife are forced to undergo significant changes to survive and adapt. It also includes early successional habitats, which relates to the changes in plant communities that result from man-made disturbances.

Supported by West Virginia University Extension Service, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, oil and gas industry representatives, the Ruffed Grouse Society and the National Wild Turkey Federation, this publication also provides contact information for technical assistance

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from many other sources. Enhancing Wildlife Habitat on Oil and Gas Infrastructure is available at all DNR District Offices and on the agency's website www.wvdnr.gov under the publications section.



Brian Galloway had musky success. Top spots are Stonecoal Lake and Stonewall Jackson Lake.

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What Happened To Spinnerbaits?

By Greg Hackney

Mel Troha from Painesville, Ohio, posed a question about spinnerbaits. He wanted to know why they're becoming less popular. They're becoming less popular on some waters, Mel, and for some styles of fishing but that doesn't mean they won't catch fish.

Here's my theory on why you don't hear so much about them anymore:

Our reservoirs are aging. A part of that process is that the water is clearer than it was years ago. Way back when I first started fishing competitively I fished a lot of water that was anywhere from stained to downright muddy. That's rare these days.

The reasons for that are complex but one of the basic ones is that the creeks and drainage systems have now lost a lot of the runoff that stains the water. There's only so
continue to the next page

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Carolyn McCloy caught a farm pond largemouth bass.



Tanner Esker, from Fayetteville, landed and released a huge musky.

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much loose soil and other stuff on top of the ground that'll run into the lake when it rains.

That creates problems for spinnerbait fishing. Spinnerbaits work best when the water has at least a little stain to it. Low light and a chop of the surface helps, too. Those conditions are pretty specific. We (pros) don't see them very often so we don't throw spinnerbaits very often.



Rodney Starcher, from Wood Co., shot a large turkey.

When we're not fishing with a bait we don't talk about it much. In turn, the press doesn't cover it much.

Another thing is that with clear water conditions swimbaits do a better job of imitating baitfish. The flash and thump from a spinnerbait is sometimes too much when the water's clear. Swimbaits are more subtle. They catch more bass.

I say that knowing that not every angler out there will agree with me. All I can say is what I believe and what works for me. Take it for what it's worth.

Another problem is the lack of timber and wood in our lakes and reservoirs. Most of it has rotted away. Spinnerbaits are great lures around timber, laydowns and stumps. They do a really good job of drawing the bass out of their hiding spots. The flash and thump is a real positive here.

All of what I've just said notwithstanding, however, I still have one tied on most of the time. There are certain situations that call for a spinnerbait. It's best to always be prepared.

continue to the next page

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This young lady caught a big catfish. *Photo courtesy of Bel Meadows Fishing in Stonewood.*

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Rivers are a totally different story. They tend to have much darker water and there is almost always a laydown or two around. A spinnerbait will excel under those conditions. When I'm fishing a river I almost always throw a spinnerbait off-and-on during the day.

My advice to most anglers is to keep a few of them around, and be ready to tie it on when the condi-

tions call for it. Like we said last week when we were talking about worms, the fish liked them in the past, and they'll like them in the future.

Next week we'll start a two part series on what to do if you're not catching fish. Hopefully, both tournament and recreational anglers will get something out of it.

Good luck fishing this year..



George Cox Jr. and George Cox III got 2 nice deer in Wirt County.

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David Moorehead caught a nice sized flathead catfish..



Jim Gemmer harvested a 20 pound gobbler. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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Chase Freeman hooked a 44 1/2 lb. blue cat. Photo courtesy of Bel Meadows Fishing Preserve near Lost Creek.



Landon Williams caught a New River smallmouth. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton..

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Ronnie Huffman caught a 6 3/4 pound largemouth at Moncove Lake. Photo courtesy of the PC Bait&Tackle in Hinton.



Young Blake Cook, from Wyoming Co., reeled in a 4 pound bass..



Shawn Ramme hooked a 17 pound flathead. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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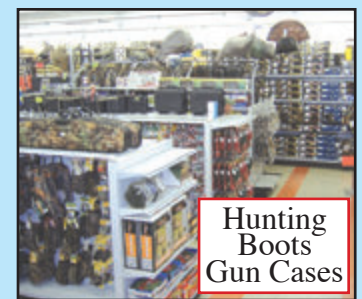
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The 12th Annual WV State Water Festival Blueston Bassin' tournament was won by Robert Lane & Braxton Huffman. They weighed in 14 pounds, 15 ounces. Photo courtesy of PC Bait&Tackle in Hinton.

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Dody Cook and Jeff Sanders went to Wyoming Co. for these gobblers.



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Hunter Owens went to Ohio with a crossbow to get a nice buck.

Musky Tips

Spring is finally upon us after a long cold winter. Reels have been been stripped, cleaned and oiled. A few new lures have been made, and Muskie anglers are chomping at the bit to get onto their favourite lakes and hunt down their favourite fish, the fresh water leviathan known as the Muskie.

continue to the next page

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The fish are sluggish and their metabolism slow. They will not spend energy chasing and gorging themselves on large bait fish. Small artificials, more suited to bass or wall-eye are the route to go. Work these lures SLOW. A lighter rod with lots of feel and lighter line works great. Don't be afraid to use a spinning outfit. Only after the water temperature reaches sixty degrees should you start using larger lures and heavier tackle.

You will want to fish smaller, shallower lakes since these warm up faster. The Muskie will be in the shallower water because this area warms up earlier and minnows will concentrate here to spawn. Shore-



Jocelyn Murray, from Wood Co., hooked a large crappie..

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lines, shoals and incoming creek mouths are areas that should be concentrated on.

Fish late mornings and early afternoons when the overhead sun warms the water, and work later in the day as the water warms up.

SUMMER

By the time early summer has arrived, the water temperature should be mid-sixties. The Muskie's metabolism is at its peak, and the fish should be on.

Weed beds have thickened and turned green, attracting baitfish and hence Muskies. Weed beds near deep water are best. Fish that hang out in deeper water will head to the weed beds to feed. On larger weed beds, work the outside edges first (especially the inside turns) before heading towards the center.

continue to the next page



Frank Basile landed this 4.65 bass to win big bass honors at the WV Water Festival in Hinton. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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As water temperature gets to the seventies, the Muskies once again slow down. Mornings and evenings are your prime times. The fish will suspend in deeper water. Its time to troll with large deep running plugs - it is the best way to cover a lot

of water as effectively as possible. Troll with a long line and troll fast. Troll tight to weedlines, then move further out and try again. Locate sunken islands and shoals, and work these areas too.

Shaded water will also hold fish. Strap on those jerk baits, and hold on tight!

“Swimming” heavier jigs along

deep water weed edges can be most productive at times. When Muskies are holding tight to the weeds, a jig will get down quicker than most lures, will not get hung up on weeds as readily as multi-hooked lures, and are more manageable on tight inside turns.

Top water action on the midnight
continue to the next page

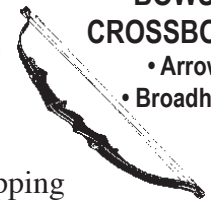


Mike Bibee, from Elizabeth, bagged a 20 1/2 pound gobbler.



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shift is also productive. Noisy surface lures painted black and retrieved slow will produce heart stopping hits. Large bladed spinner baits are also productive.

On muggy, foggy late summer mornings, buzz baits worked very shallow next to shoreline rock, or wood structure can produce excellent results.

FALL

If you want to catch a trophy Muskie, fall is the time to do it. Most seasoned Muskie guides agree that September and October are the peak months to catch a true trophy. The water temperature drops to the mid sixties, and the Muskies start putting on fat for the upcoming winter.

Spring tactics will work in the fall,

except think BIG. Jerkbait along shorelines, are recommended. As the water cools, fish slower.

Early in the fall, mornings, evenings and nights are your best bets, but as the water temperature drops to the fifties, switch to the afternoons and early evenings. At this time the water will be warmer.

In late fall, as the weeds turn brown, Muskie will move away from them. Concentrate on the shallows, shorelines and bays. Downsize your lures and fish them slow.

Good luck and good fishing!

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Stewart McGraw caught a 13 1/2 pound catfish in Hinton..

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SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va.
- Applications for the 2015 Antlerless Deer Season limited permit areas are available online at www.wvhunt.com, according to Chris Ryan, Supervisor of Game Management Services for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR).

Hunters must apply for a limited antlerless firearms permit using the Electronic Licensing System at www.wvhunt.com. To apply, hunters simply log onto their ac-

continue to the next page

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count, click on "Enter Lottery" on their home screen, and click "Enter" to the right of "Antlerless Deer Hunt." They then select the county or WMA for which they want to apply. As in the past, hunters may also select a secondary county or WMA in case they aren't selected for their first location. Hunters without accounts may also create one at www.wvhunt.com.

Hunters wanting to enter as a group must know the other hunters' DNR ID numbers to enter the lottery. Hunters may also call their local DNR district office for help with the application process. The deadline for applications is midnight August 15. Successful applicants will be notified by mail by the first week of October. In addition, successful applicants can

see whether they received a permit starting August 18 by logging into their account.

"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," said Ryan.

Five wildlife management areas (Big Ugly, Elk River, Greenbrier State Forest, Kumbrabow State Forest and Wallback) and seven counties or portions thereof (Clay, Fayette, Mercer, Nicholas, Poca-

hontas, Raleigh and Randolph) will have a limited number of Class N licenses for resident and Class NN licenses for nonresident antlerless deer hunting Oct. 22-24 on private land only, and Nov. 23 through Dec. 5, Dec. 17-19 and Dec. 29-31 on private and public land.

For complete information on antlerless deer season dates and bag limits, consult the 2015-2016 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, which is available at West Virginia hunting and fishing license agents and DNR offices. The Summary is available online at www.wvdnr.gov.



Junior Bennett killed a big black bear in Wirt County.



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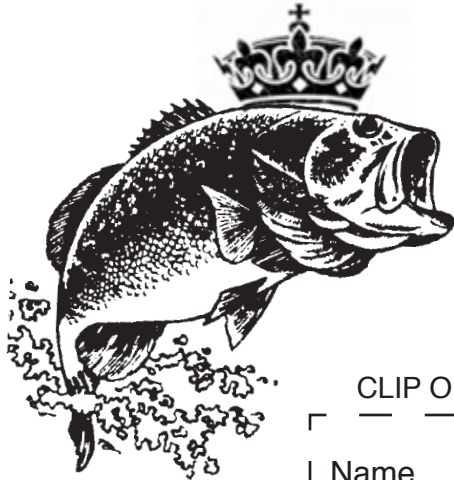
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Cory Boothe hooked a nine pound channel catfish.



Jim Lambert went to Wyoming for a 6x6 elk.



Mackenzie Shuff, from Fayetteville, hooked a rainbow trout.



Gary Wendell went to Woodrum Lake for a 39" musky.

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Doug Johnson (left), from Buckhannon, caught a 199 pound tuna in North Carolina

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Cody Bunner reeled in a nice smallmouth bass.



Trey Leadman hooked a 42" Elk River musky.



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Carol Brown hooked a 13 1/2" crappie. Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks.





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Jackie Compton hooked a nice crappie at North Bend Lake. *Photo courtesy of Bait Shack in Harrisville.*

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- Convenience store onsite with gift shop, WV souvenirs, and many unique hillbilly gifts
- Open 365 days a year
- Stonewall Resort with fine restaurants and Arnold Palmer Signature Golf Course, and 2,650 acre Stonewall Jackson Lake with all types of water recreation, fishing, and hunting, just two minutes away



DNR Donates To DU

SOUTH CHARLESTON, West Virginia – Hunters are reminded that a concurrent bear season without dogs will occur from November 23 – December 5 on public and private land in 18 counties, according to Colin Carpenter, Black Bear Project Leader for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. Barbour, Braxton, Calhoun, Clay, Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Lewis, Mercer, Monroe, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Randolph, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur, and Webster counties will be open for concur-



Mike Bibee, from Elizabeth, went to the mountains for a nice gobbler.

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rent 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



Waylon Kincaid had success with a great buck.

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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 currently above their management objective and additional bears need to be harvested to achieve their goal,” said Carpenter. “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 third time that hunters in the majority of these counties will have the opportunity to harvest a black bear during the buck-gun season, and we hope they will take advantage of it.”

Hunters must apply for a limited bear firearms permit using the Elec-

continue to the next page



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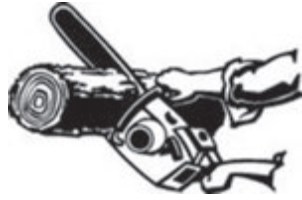
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tronic Licensing System at www.wvhunt.com. To apply, simply log into your account and click on "Enter Lottery" on your home screen and click "Enter" to the right of "Black Bear Hunt." Then select the county you want to apply for during the hunt. As in the past, hunters may also select a secondary county in case they aren't selected for their first location. Hunters without accounts can also create one at www.wvhunt.com. Hunters can also call their local DNR District office for help with the application process. The deadline for applications is midnight August 15, 2015. Successful applicants will be notified by mail by the first week of October. In addition, successful applicants can learn whether they received a

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permit starting August 18, 2015 by logging into their account. Neither the permit nor the class DS stamp is transferrable, and the county of hunt cannot be changed.

Details concerning bear hunting seasons can be found on pages 36-39 of the 2015-2016 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary.

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Hunting & Trapping

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va.
- The 2015-2016 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary brochure is available at West Virginia hunting and fishing license agents, Division of Natural Resources district offices and the DNR Elkins and South Charleston offices. This regulations summary is also available online at www.wvhunt.com.

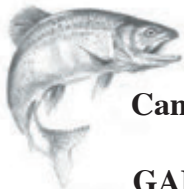
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BIRCH RIVER, WV
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Killian Blake, from Clendenin, hooked a big fish..



Joel Young caught a musky at Stonewall Jackson Lake..

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Buckhannon, WV
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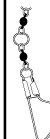
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wvdnr.gov.

DNR officials urge hunters and trappers to carefully review these regulations, as there are several important changes in place this fall and next spring.

Hunters and trappers must follow the new rules for electronic checking of game. This can be accomplished by either going online to wvhunt.com, stopping at a hunting and fishing license agent, or by calling 1-844-982-4325 (1-844-WVCheck). Additionally, these rules no longer require the hunter and/or trapper to take their game to an official game checking station. All field tagging, transporting and possession requirements still apply.

A crossbow season for deer and wild boar will run Sept. 26 – Dec. 31 and for bear during the period from Sept. 26 – Nov. 21 and from

Dec. 7-31. Additionally, crossbows continue to the next page

**LAZY DOGS CAMP RESORT
 AND CATFISH PAY LAKE**

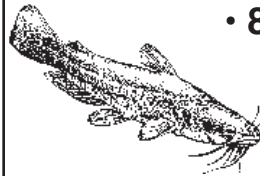


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Kenny Arbogast brought in a nice gobbler..



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are legal to use during any big game firearms season.

The antlerless deer season will run Oct. 22-24, Nov. 23 – Dec. 5, Dec. 17-19 and Dec. 29-31. Antlerless season bag limits have been reduced in several counties for 2015. Black bear firearms hunting seasons have been modified, including the addition of a Sept. 5-12, season in Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties.

During the 2015 fall wild turkey hunting season, changes for the one-week and two-week season counties have occurred.

Night vision technology is legal for taking coyote, fox, raccoon, skunk and opossum during open seasons. The West Virginia Chronic Wast-

ing Disease Containment Area has been expanded to include all of Berkeley, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, Mineral and Morgan counties. It is illegal to bait or feed deer at any time in these counties. Additionally, hunters are prohibited from transporting dead deer beyond the boundaries of Hampshire, Hardy and Morgan counties.



Some nice catfish were caught at North Bend Lake.



Bill Copen shot a nice deer in Ritchie County.

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GAME CHECKING



New Bear Cubs At French Creek

FRENCH CREEK, W.Va. - The West Virginia Wildlife Center in Upshur County has two new black bear cubs on exhibit. The cubs arrived at the zoological facility in the late spring. They are both male and one is about a month older than the other.

“Having young wildlife is always fun for our staff and visitors,” said Paul Johansen, Wildlife Resources Section chief of the Division of Natural Resources. “The exhibit allows visitors to safely observe our state animal, which is one of the largest species of wildlife native to West Virginia.”

The West Virginia Wildlife Center already has on exhibit two adult bears that came to the zoological facility in 1995 and are now 20 years old. Before that pair, it had a bear that came to the center in 1977 and died in 1994.

continue to the next page



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The West Virginia Wildlife Center exhibits native and introduced animals in areas that replicate their natural habitat but are safe for both people and animals. The facility originally opened as the French Creek Game Farm in 1923 and was updated and renamed in 1986 to serve as an educational facility where visitors can see, enjoy and learn more about West Virginia's rich wildlife heritage.

The West Virginia Wildlife Center is located in French Creek just south of Buckhannon. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April through October and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. November through March. To learn more, visit www.wvdnr.gov.



Lee Sprouse reeled in a real nice 5 pound, 9 oz. largemouth bass.



Jason Harrah hooked a monster cat in the Kanawha River.



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B	H	S	B	R	O	W	N	I	N	G	T	A	R	G	E	T	Z	L	M
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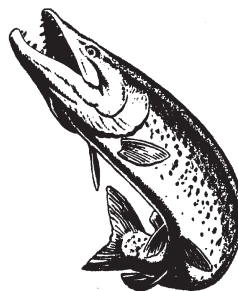
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