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Issue 303

October/November 2022



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Cover Photo

Jonathan Potter traveled from Summersville to compete in the 12th Annual Stonewall Classic bass tournament in September. He landed the biggest fish in the popular 2 day tournament. His largemouth bass weighed 6 pound, 2 ounces.

Archery season is on and if you harvest a big buck with a cross-bow or compound bow, send it to the form info on page 38.

2022 Archery Season Dates

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. —The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is reminding hunters to start preparing for the opening of the state's archery and crossbow seasons for white-tailed deer, black bear and wild boar.

The popular seasons will open on Sept. 24 and run through Dec. 31. Hunters are also reminded to purchase their license and stamps at wvhunt.com before the season starts.

Deer

Hunters may take up to two deer in one day during the archery or



Gabe Wolverton arrowed a nice 9 point in Taylor Co. *Photo courtesy* of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton.

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crossbow seasons, but only one antlered deer may be taken on the same day during any season. The first deer does not have to be electronically checked before harvesting the second deer on the same day.

Hunters who wish to harvest additional deer during the archery or crossbow seasons must purchase a Class RB or RRB stamp before Sept. 24. One or two additional archery or crossbow deer, depending on the county, may be taken with a archery deer stamp, for a total of one deer per stamp. West Virginia residents and senior hunters must buy a Class RB



Justin Richards had early success with an 8 point. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.



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stamp to take additional archery or crossbow deer, but West Virginia resident landowners hunting continue to the next page



Gordon Brock caught and released a big Elk Fork Lake bass.

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on their own property and Class DT license holders are not required to purchase additional archery stamps.

Hunters are reminded that Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties are under special regulations. In these counties, only two archery deer may be taken, one of which must be antlerless. In 10 additional counties or portions thereof, hunters must take an antlerless deer in any reg-



John Christopher caught the 2nd biggest bass - 6 pounds, 1 ounce at the Stonewall Classic. He and Sam Alvaro won the 2 day tournament with 36 pounds.

ing a second antlered deer in that Forest stamp (Class I). county.

Bear

Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Raleigh or Wyoming counis one per day.

Resident bear hunters are required to purchase a base license and a bear damage stamp (Class DS) to hunt bear unless otherwise hunting license when they beexempt from having a license. come available to purchase. Nonresident bear hunters must (Class EE), a conservation/law enforcement stamp (CS/LE) and hunting on national forest land ulations Summary at wvdnr.gov.

ular deer season before harvest- must also purchase a National

Wild Boar

The wild boar archery and cross-Two bears may be taken per year, bow seasons are open in Boone, provided at least one bear is tak- Logan, Raleigh and Wyoming en in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, counties to resident hunters only. The season bag limit is one wild boar and no application is reties. The daily bag limit for bear quired. A second split of the wild boar archery and crossbow seasons will open Feb. 3-5, 2023. To hunt in the February wild boar season, hunters will need a 2023

For more information about West purchase a bear hunting license Virginia's hunting seasons and hunting regulations, download a copy of the 2022-2023 West Vira Class DS stamp. Nonresidents ginia Hunting and Trapping Reg-



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Weird Hunting Facts

After breaking up with his girlfriend, Justin Vernon (Bon Iver) wrote 'For Emma, Forever Ago' in his father's remote hunting cabin. He hunted deer for food, once having to trade venison to afford repairing his guitar. After months in relative solitude he emerged, having recorded all 9 songs.

Boa constrictor is a carnivore (meat-eater). While they are young, boa constrictors eat smaller prey, like rats, mice and squirrels. When they reach adult size, they start to hunt and eat larger prey, such as monkeys, wild boars and deer.

Bobcats are carnivores (meat-eaters). They prefer rabbits, but their diet also includes rodents, birds, lizards, snakes and carrion. During the winter, bobcats hunt larger prey, such as deer.

Wolverines are omnivores (they eat both meat and vegetation). During the summer season, when different types of plants, berries and roots are available, wolverine expands its normal diet with plants. Even during summer time, wolverine cannot survive without meat. They eat rabbits, mice, porcupines, squirrels, but they also hunt injured deer and caribou.



Sport hunting has surpassed hunting for food in many parts of the world, although many animals that are hunted for sport are also consumed after they have been killed, such as moose, deer, elk, and bison.

Dholes are carnivores (meat-eaters). Their diet mainly consists of various species of deer, wild

continue to the next page



Garrett Tucker landed a 5 lb., 12 oz. Stonewall Jackson bass.



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cattle. They rarely hunt smaller animals such as rabbits, lizards and insects.

In the winter the men would hunt



for fowl, beaver, turkey, elk, and deer

Afghan Hound was used for hunting of deer, wild goats, gazelles, wild boars, hares, wolves, snow leopards and falcons in the past. Unlike their ancestors, modern Afghan Hounds are much slower and rarely used for hunting.

Deer are a favorite food of the Komodo dragon and in an effort to increase their population the government began prohibiting deer hunting by the islanders.

Harpy eagle is a carnivore (meat-eater). It hunts and eats sloths, monkeys, baby deer, coatimundis, javelinas, agoutis, porcupines, armadillos, raccoons and parrots.

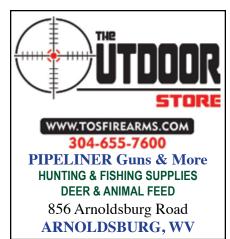
Wolves are ultimate predators that do not have natural enemies. They are meat eaters who hunt goats, sheep, deer, moose and other larger and smaller prey.

Lynx is a carnivore (meat-eater). It usually hunts small mammals, such as snowshoe hare, mice and squirrels, and birds. Larger species of lynx often hunt bigger animals, such as deer.



James Warner caught a 6 lb., 11 oz. largemouth for big bass at a Stonewall Jackson event.

Oct/Nov 2022 ~ Page 8



In North America, people hunt, with the intention to eat, birds and waterfowl, turkeys, deer, moose, bear, elk, caribou, bison, bighorn sheep, rabbit, squirrel, beaver, and other animals.

Hunting strategy depends on the type of prey they are chasing. If coyote hunt a small prey, it will hunt alone. If the prey of choice is larger animal, such as deer, group of coyotes (composed of several animals) will join their forces to kill the prey. Coyotes are the most active during the dawn and the continue to page 10



Matt Brown reeled in a huge smallmouth bass.

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dawn and the dusk.

English Foxhounds were bred as part of a 16th-century conservation effort during King Henry VIII's reign. Because deer populations were depleting, partially due to nobles hunting them for sport, the fox was chosen as a new prey. Foxhounds were a blend of Greyhound, Fox Terrier and Bulldog. - source

Akita dog was initially created to guard and protect Shoguns of noble houses in Japan and to track and hunt fowl, wild boars, black bears and deer. It hunts silently, using the same stalking techniques as tiger.

The Navajo hunted for small game, antelope, and deer. When the Spanish arrived they brought goats and sheep and the Navajo began to raise livestock.

Deer (etc.) jump high into the air as a signal to predators that the jumper isn't worth hunting.

Ainu dog was initially created to ing roughly hewn spacificate hunting of salmon, deer and bears, and to protect people hands to catch a fish.

Mule deer were in

Some hunters say technology has taken the sport out of hunting. The primitive hunting movement uses time-tested methods, making arrows with stone tips to

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take down deer and coyotes, using roughly hewn spears to hunt wild boar and even the use of bare hands to catch a fish.

Mule deer were introduced to Angel Island in 1915 by the army for hunting. The population exploded because of the lack of predators.

continue to the next page



Nate Martin, from Spencer, caught a big Ohio River hybrid.

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Deer hunting is called "Deer that of a deer, the term venison stalking" in the UK. "Deer hunting"(UK) uses scent hounds and horses.

The reason hunting jackets are see that color.

Venison is a term used for the meat of a game animal killed by hunting. Primarily referring to



Willie White, from Man, went to New Mexico for a great elk.



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can also be used to describe hares, wild pigs, antelope, and certain species of goats and ibex.

Wildcat is a carnivore (meat-eatneon orange is cause deer can't er). Its diet is based on rodents, birds, reptiles, insects and spiders. It occasionally hunts large prey such as rabbits, small deer and antelopes. Wildcat eats entire prey, including the feathers, fur and bones.

> One of the first examples of mass produced art was a carving on an ancient hunting weapon that included a deer watching itself poop The Hopi were also hunters, with the men hunting antelope, small game, and deer for food. They

> used tools such as traps, and large

sticks as weapons to hunt.

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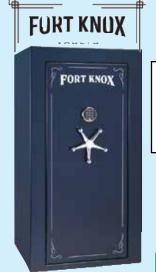
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hunting of wild boars and deer.

If you took all the deer hunter in Wisconsin during hunting season, they'd make up the eighth largest may hunt deer. army in the world.

Dremiel Byers, was caught hunt-



Creed Wallace - 9 - used a 410 for his gobbler in the spring.

the parking lot of a car dealership.

There is a type of squirrel that tive military in the world.

The phrase "eating humble pie" In 2014, US Olympic wrestler, comes from medieval deer hunting, the rich received the finest cuts of venison while the poor would be forced to take the unwanted intestines, which they would bake into a "pie" for consumption

Byzantine emperor Basil I died by a fever after having his belt caught by the antlers of a deer while hunting and being dragged 16 miles as a result. The emperor was eventually cut down by an attendant, but had him executed after believing the knife he took out was for assassination.

At 600,000 ish, the Wisconsin Oct/Dec 2022 ~ Page 12

ing deer with a bow and arrow in deer hunting army (if it were an army) would be the 8th largest ac-

> The same state wildlife agencies who sell hunting liscences to continue to the next page



Mike Gilmore caught & released a big North Bend Lake bass.

ly **increase** deer population. Strategies include creating edge habitat that deer prefer, and planting extra crops to feed deer.

Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria, who hunted overly, killed has saved hundreds of wild ania rare white deer in 1913. Hunting folklore had it that anybody

"reduce deer population" active- killing such an animal would die within a year. The following year the Archduke and his wife were assassinated triggering events that resulted in the First World War.

> An Indian man Prakash Amte mals from being hunted by setting up a Wildlife Orphanage and

Sanctuary "Animal Ark" in his own home; The Ark houses leopards, sloth bears, snakes, birds, deer, owls, crocodiles, hyenas and monkeys



Young Tucker Burgess is proud of his largemouth bass.



Joe Defazio caught a huge rainbow. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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Holli McDiffitt hunted in Wetzel county for her great archery buck.

Improving Wildlife Habitat

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, is seeking private landowners who want to improve wildlife habitat on their land.

The partnership seeks to address shrinking populations of priority wildlife species by implementing conservation practices that improve natural resources on private land.

"More than 80 percent of land in West Virginia is privately owned and many wildlife species occur

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primarily on private land. So, public-private partnerships are critical for the long-term persistence of these populations," said Paul Johansen, chief of the WVDNR Wildlife Resources Section. "Private landowners benefit from the technical and financial assistance to improve their land, which ul-

timately benefits many of the state's priority species. It's a winwin for everyone."

Target species include cerulean warbler, golden-winged warbler and multiple insect pollinators that have been identified as priority species in West Virginia's State continue to the next page

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Brittany Pennell brought in an archery buck.

Wildlife Action Plan. These species inhabit a variety of habitats, from meadows to shrubby thickets and groves of young saplings to mature forests, which are also preferred by species like ruffed grouse, whip-poor-will, whitetailed deer and wild turkey.

Professional biologists, foresters and conservation planners are available to develop individualized conservation plans based on each landowner's objectives and the identified needs of the land. Every conservation plan is unique but may include removing problematic plants, establishing desirable plants, thinning trees from overstocked forests, adjusting the type and timing of current management practices and creating natural structures such as brush piles, where wildlife can nest, forage and take shelter.

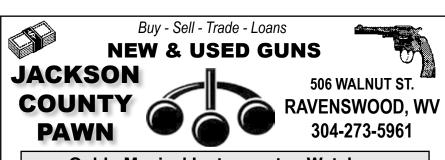
Mature Forest

Improving mature forest habitat will benefit cerulean warblers.



forests with an abundance of Most forests in West Virginia have large, tall trees and small open- large, tall trees, but they often ings in the canopy that are filled

which prefer mature deciduous with vigorous new plant growth. continue to the next page



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For more information about mature forests or for help getting started, contact Emily Reasor, WVDNR/NRCS partner avian biologist, at 304-872-1731 ext. 6124 or emily.reasor@usda.gov, or Jane Capozzelli, WVDNR/ NRCS partner avian biologist at 304-363-8861 ext. 6912 or jane. capozzelli@usda.gov.

Young Forest

Improving young forest habitat will benefit golden-winged warblers, which prefer shrubby thickets and young forests near large patches of mature deciduous forest at higher elevations. The right combination of these char-



Paulie Saltis - 6 - bagged his 1st archery buck. Future hunter.

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acteristics is rare in West Virginia, WVDNR/NRCS partner avian though it can be found near ma-biologist, at 304-799-3006 or kature forest and old fields. Creating young forest habitat requires rotational mowing or brush-hogging, overstory removal, planting native trees and shrubs or controlling invasive plants. Landowners interested in managing young forest habitat may also notice more American woodcock. ruffed grouse, eastern cottontail and whip-poor-will.

For more information about young forests or for help getting Matt Jones, from Sissonville, started, contact Katie Fernald, brought in a giant archery buck.

trina.fernald@usda.gov.



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Hunter White (top) and Matt Givens (below) tied for big bass at the Kings of the Lakes tournament. Both landed 4 lb., 7 oz. largemouth bass.



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Jackson Sailer arrowed a 10 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne*.



Sierra Stump used a compound buck for her nice 12 point buck.

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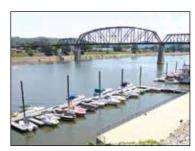


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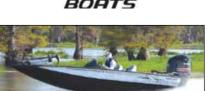
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Christopher Grear, from Pinch, hooked a long musky.



Luke Long and Nathan Harper Sam Alvaro and John Christopher won the Kings of the Lakes bass won the Stonewall Classic bass tournament Their winning weight tournament. Their 2 day weight was 18 lbs, 13 oz. for the 2 days.



was an impressive 36 pounds.

TEXT · EMAIL · SEND

YOUR BIG GAME PICS THIS 2022 SEASON. **FORM IS ON PAGE 38**

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Coyote Night Hunting Update

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — The West Virginia Natural Resources Commission approved updates to the regulations for coyote night hunting. Using any color artificial light or night vision technology, including image intensification, thermal imaging or active illumination, for coyote hunting in West Virginia is permitted between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31 on private land.

Hunting coyotes at night requires written permission from the landowner and prior notification to the local Natural Resources Police Officer or the DNR District Office during normal business



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hours. The hunter or landowner must provide the hunter's name, the landowner's name and the hunting location.

For more information, contact go to wvdnr.gov to locate a DNR District Office near you.

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Doody Cook landed a September bass at R. D. Bailey Lake.



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Jessalyn Moore, from Huntington, caught her first catfish.

Telephone Black Bear Survey

BECKLEY, W.VA. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is conducting a scientific study on black bears and black bear management that will involve telephone surveys of residents.

In the coming weeks, state residents may receive a phone call from Responsive Management, a research firm contracted by the WVDNR to conduct the study, asking them to participate in a brief telephone survey about black bears and black bear management.

Residents will be selected at random, which is necessary to maintain a scientifically valid study. If you receive a call at home or on your cell phone regarding this study, please consider participat-

> **Advertise In The** W. Va. Sportsman LOW Rates **Details On Page 3**



Mike Charlton caught a rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

ing to assist the agency in better understanding opinions on issues related to black bears in West Virginia. Residents may also receive a text message with a link to the survey.

This study builds on previous surveys to assess attitudes toward black bears the WVDNR and Reagement Plan.

internationally recognized public the public.



sponsive Management conduct- opinion and attitude survey reed in 2017, 2012 and 2006. The search firm specializing in natural study will include an analysis of resource and outdoor recreation trends in opinions and attitudes. issues. Its mission is to help nat-The data will then be used to up- ural resource and outdoor recredate the state's Black Bear Man- ation agencies and organizations better understand and work with Responsive Management is an their constituents, customers and



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Smallmouth Feeding

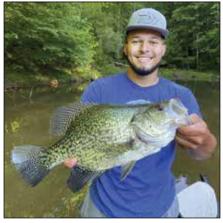
By Michael Iaconelli

All black bass species rely on the same four senses to keep their bellies full. I'm referring mainly to sight, sound, vibration and smell. A lot of bass anglers assume largemouth and smallmouth use these senses the same way. They don't.

It's really important that you know the difference when you're trying to get a bass to eat an artificial bait.



Larry Adams arrowed a 10 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Suppply in Middlebourne*.



Ben Kee hooked a huge black crappie.

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Largemouth feed primarily by vibration and sound. Smallmouth feed primarily by sight and smell. Those are important distinctions to remember. When I'm picking baits for smallmouth, two things top the list. One, does the bait appeal to a smallmouth's sense of smell? Two, is the bait's color realistic and easy to see?

Berkley has been on the cutting edge of the smell and scent revolution for decades. They started with PowerBait. Then came Gulp! Now they've evolved to PowerBait MaxScent. Many other companies have created scented baits and application scents as well.

When I'm smallmouth fishing, I never, never, never ever throw a continue to the next page



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a soft plastic bait that is not scented. It's that important. Yes, largemouth and the other black bass species use their sense of smell, but not as a primary feeding response like smallmouth do.

I've done many taste tests while fishing with friends and even co-anglers where one of us will fish a scented bait and the other a non-scented bait. Whoever is fishing the scented bait typically gets three times as many bites. The right scent can actually draw a smallmouth to the bait.

When I left home for the recent Elite tournament on Lake Oahe, I had two dozen rods in my boat locker rigged with a wide variety of MaxScent baits. They included the Flat Worm, Hit Worm, The General, Lil' General, Tube and more.

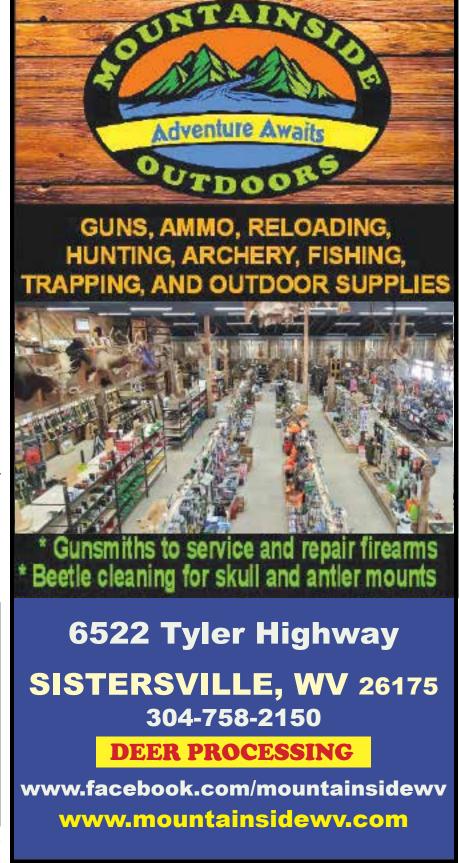
Sight

Smallmouth utilize their eyes more than any other species of bass. They have to see the bait to eat it. I consider three things when I'm picking a lure that will catch a smallmouth's eye.

continue to the next page



Trenton Robinson brought in a huge archery buck.





The first is color. In clear water you really have to dial in the color of whatever the smallmouth are feeding on. Depending on where and when you're fishing, that could be things like herring, gobies, crawfish or yellow perch. The cleaner the water, the more closely you've got to match the hatch, so to speak.

On the other hand, I often use shock colors to draw bass from a distance. A shock color doesn't mimic anything in particular, it's just a bright color that smallmouth



Sam Alvaro & John Christopher are holding part of their winning bag on day 2 of the Stonewall Classic. John has a 5 lb., 7 oz. bass on the right. They ended up with 36 pounds over the 2 days.



can see from far away. Colors like bright chartreuse, bright white, bright orange and bubble gum can create an aggressive response, especially when smallmouth are in groups.

Fishing conditions are number two on my mind. Low early morning and late evening light, and cloudy, rainy conditions tend to be good for largemouth bass. That's not what you want for smallmouth. You'll catch more smallies on sunny, slick, calm water. These conditions allow continue to the next page



Ronnie Drake reeled in an Ohio River blue catfish.



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Some of the best smallmouth days use speed and rate of fall to countof my life – 30 to 50 fish days – were under those conditions.

with speed and rate of fall. I put in fast, such as speed cranking, those hand in hand. Speed is how fast you retrieve a bait. The rate of fall is how fast a lure sinks on a semi-slack line.

Although the best conditions for smallmouth bass are calm and bright sun, the downside is that they are more likely to distinguish

the bass to see your lures better. that your lure is a fraud. You can er that.

With a lot of my smallmouth My third consideration has to do fishing, I want that bait coming burning a spinnerbait and working a jerkbait or topwater faster than you would with other bass species.

> I increase the rate of fall by using heavier weights with dropshot rigs, tubes, Ned rigs, micro jigs and other sinking lures. The smallmouth don't get a good look

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at a bait that sinks fast and attack reflexively.

You can learn more about how I fish for smallmouth and other techniques at www.mikeiaconelli.com or www.youtube.com/c/ goingike.



Todd Billeter, from New Martinsville, has a Stonewall largemouth.



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Walter Stalnaker, from Weston, has a huge Canadian moose.

Aug/Sept 2022 ~ Page 32



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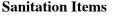
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Green Bank Hunting

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — A special resident-only controlled deer hunt at the Green Bank Observatory in Green Bank, W.Va. has been scheduled for Oct. 28-29 and Nov. 3-4, the Observatory and West Virginia Division of Natural Resources announced today.

All hunters who wish to apply must do so online at wyhunt.com. Applications must be submitted by midnight on Aug. 29. Hunters that do not already have an account will need to create one before applying.

After logging into their DNR account, hunters should select "Enter a Lottery Drawing" on the home screen and select the day or days they would like to apply for by selecting "Add." Once a selection is made, click "Proceed to Checkout."

To complete the application, select "Complete" and choose either "individual" or "party" (up to four members in a party including the captain) then select archery/ crossbow or shotgun/muzzleloader under the hunt locations and click "Save." Make sure to check the box agreeing to the terms for purchase. There will be no charge to hunt but select "Pay Now" to apply for the hunt.

Successful applicants will be notified by mail and issued a special letter of authorization from the Observatory with detailed instructions and regulations. Only hunters who have made an application and have received a letter for a particular day or days may hunt. Walk-ons will not be permitted to hunt.

The four days of controlled hunts continue to page 36



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Krystal Winters reeled in a 5 lb., 8 oz. largemouth bass.

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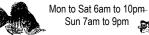
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ROUND A RFR #5 Christensen Arms Mesa FFT 28 Nosler

ROUND A RFR #6 Weatherby VG Badlands 300 wby

ROUND A RFR #7 Glock 29SF 10mm

ROUND A RFR #8 CZ Readhead Premier 20ga o/u ROUND A RFR #9 H&K VP-9 9mm

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ROUND A RFR #18 Weatherby Sporter 243 ROUND A RFR #19 Kel-Tec PS0 5.7x28mm

ROUND A RFR #20 Sabatti Saphire Thumbhole 30-06 Drawing #21 ONLY - TEN WINNERS

ROUND A RFR #21 Glock 19 Gen 5 9mm (Match last 3 numbers on ticket to WIN)

5:31 PM - 6:00 PM Rapid Fire Round B

Drawings #1 THRU #20 - ONE WINNER

ROUND 8 RFR #1 Beretta PX4 Storm 9mm Pistol ROUND 8 RFR #2 WN Tayor TS12 12ga Tactical

ROUND 8 RFR #3 Weatherby VS First Light 257W8Y Cipher

ROUND B RFR #4 FN 509M 9mm

ROUND B RFR #5 Beretta A300 Ultima Kom 12ga Came ROUND B RFR #6 Remington 700SPS Tactical 308

ROUND B RFR #6 Remington 700SPS Tactical 30 ROUND B RFR #7 Tri-Star Bristol 410 SXS

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ROUND B RFR #18 Glock 43 9mm

ROUND 8 RFR #19 Tikka T3x Lite Carno 6.5 Creedmoor

ROUND 8 RFR #20 Bergara HMR 300 PRC
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Oct/Nov 2022 ~ Page 35

will take place within delineated areas ranging in size from 132 acres to 1,000 acres. The maximum bag limit during the hunt is one antlerless deer per day. Additionally, an onsite lottery will be held each day of the hunt and five hunters will be selected to hunt an either-sex deer. Deer harvested on the site do not count toward the hunter's annual licensed deer bag limit. However, participating hunters must possess an appropriate base West Virginia hunting license or be exempt from having to purchase a license.

Due to the nature of the work at the observatory, gasoline-powered vehicles are strictly controlled on the site. Hunters may park only in designated parking areas. and all vehicles will be issued a pass that must be displayed on the windshield. Transportation from hunter check-in to some hunt areas will be provided by the GBO. For purposes of safety and biological study of harvested deer, all hunters must pass through the check-in station each morning before the day's hunt. At the end of the day's hunt, all hunters must

Smith



Mattie Smith used a compound for a Lincoln County 10 point.

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Braden Riddle (top) used a bow in Gilmer Co. for his nice 9 point. Bryson Riddle (below) used his bow for his 8 point. Both are 1st cousins. Family hunters!





Jenny Barnhouse got her 1st compound bow 11 point in Nicholas.



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Steve Lemley caught a 5 lb., 1 oz. largemouth at the Stonewall Classic.

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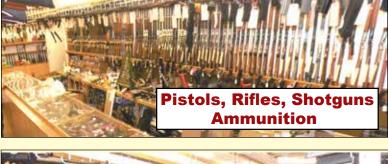
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