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Issue 223

October 2012



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TIPS**

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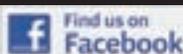
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Magazine

Volume 1 Issue 223

Publisher and Editor
Mark A. Goudy

Contributing Editors
West Virginia Division Of
Natural Resources

No Subscriptions Offered

W.Va. Sportsman is a monthly publication.

W.Va. Sportsman
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Cover Photo

Mark Foster, from St. Albans, caught a new state record blue catfish in the Ohio River using cut bait. His fish broke the length and weight records. It measured 43.9" and weighed 44 1/2 pounds which broke his own state record of 32.28 pounds set in 2011.

To top it off, he also tied the gar state record length the same day of 52.25". What a day of fishing. Two state records!

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Check In Your Game Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – With the opening of a variety of hunting seasons quickly approaching, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources reminds big game hunters that successful hunters must field tag and transport their deer, bear, turkey and wild boar to a Natural Resources Police Officer or official game checking station for re-tagging. This action must be completed by the hunter who harvests the animal and is required of all successful hunters, including landowners. A summary of the checking requirements follow, but hunters should consult the 2012-2013 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for complete details.

Deer: The unskinned carcass or the fresh skin and head must be checked before it is transported beyond the county adjacent to the county in which it was killed within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first. In

Logan, McDowell, Mingo or Wyoming counties, however, the deer must be checked in the four-county area within 24 hours of the time of kill. Deer killed outside these four counties cannot be checked within these counties.

Bear: The unskinned carcass or fresh skin must be checked within 24 hours after kill and before any part of the bear is transported more than 75 miles from the point of kill.

Turkey: The unskinned carcass must be checked before it is transported beyond the county adjacent to the county in which it was killed within 72 hours from when it was killed or 24 hours from the close of the respective season, whichever comes first.

Wild Boar: The unskinned carcass must be checked in the county of kill within 24 hours after kill.

For additional information, please consult the 2012-13 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary or a local DNR office.

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Prepare For Your Hunting Season

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Several of West Virginia’s fall hunting seasons open in September. Now is a great time for hunters to scout favorite hunting areas and properly sight in their firearms to be sure they are on target when they go afield, according to Chuck Waggy, wildlife biologist for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

Most species of wildlife modify their behavior and movement patterns in response to the availability of food. As highly nutritious acorns and other natural wildlife foods ripen, wildlife will find these sources of food and concentrate in these areas. Hunters who take the time to scout their hunting areas and locate productive wildlife food sources before season opens will greatly increase their chances of successfully harvesting game.

Pre-season scouting is an excellent way to spend pleasant days afield with a youngster and teach him or



Arnold Schoolcraft bagged a black bear. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*



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her about the hunting heritage and outdoor wonders of West Virginia. This is also a good time to make landowner contacts and obtain permission to hunt on private land.

“Early fall is a pleasant time to visit a shooting range, and public shooting ranges are normally less crowded during this time of year,” said Waggy. “I encourage adults to use this time to introduce youth to the enjoyment of shooting. This is also a great opportunity to instruct youngsters in the methods of safe gun handling.”

The proper sighting in of a firearm involves the use of a safe shooting range, a solid shooting support and a few basic shooting techniques. A shooting range should have a safe backstop and be at least 500 feet from any residence or place where people gather. The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) maintains many pub-

lic shooting ranges statewide, and these facilities are excellent places to sight in a firearm. The location

continue to the next page



Kari Epperly, from Thornton, shot a gobbler this spring.



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of these ranges can be found on the WVDNR website at www.wvdnr.gov.

Tips for Sighting In a Firearm

When sighting in a firearm, solidly support the firearm on a sturdy shooting bench using sandbags or a commercial shooting rest. Always place the fore stock of the firearm, not the barrel, on the support. Stock and sight mounting screws should be checked for proper tightness. Be sure that the ammunition is the correct caliber for the firearm, and sight in with the ammunition that will be used for hunting. Several different brands and types of am-



George Lambert caught a citation smallmouth bass. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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munition may need to be tested to determine the one best suited for a particular firearm.

Always wear proper eye and ear protection when shooting, and be sure other persons nearby are also wearing this protection. Try to time your sighting in sessions so the sun is not shining directly into your face or onto your sights.

A sandbag placed between the rear of the stock and shoulder will greatly reduce the impact of the recoil on a shooter's body when using heavy recoiling firearms. Assume a comfortable shooting position so your muscles are relaxed. Position the firearm's sights on the target by adjusting the support so the

support holds the firearm on target with little or no effort on your part required to maintain a proper sight picture.

Relax, take a deep breath, slowly let the breath out and then smoothly pull the trigger with the pad of the shooting finger when the sights are properly aligned on the target. Be careful not to use the joint area of the shooting finger, and do not jerk the trigger in anticipation of the firearm firing. After firing the

continue to the next page

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shot, follow through smoothly and relax before looking at the target or firing another shot.

Fire a three or five shot group, determine the center of the group and make sight changes as necessary. Follow the firearm or sight manufacturer's instructions to make the necessary sight adjustments. Fire several more groups, allowing the forearm's barrel to cool between groups, to determine if the firearm is properly sighted in.

When you are confident that the firearm is properly sighted in, practice shooting several groups from the various unsupported field shooting positions (e.g., standing, kneeling, sitting and prone) that likely will be used when hunting.

Proper pre-season scouting and going afield with a well sighted-in firearm will enhance your enjoyment of hunting opportunities in the Mountain State.

Famous Shay Engine To Be Used

CASS, W.Va. – The same steam locomotive used more than 100 years ago to haul timber from West Virginia hillsides will be used to haul materials to improve fish habitat, according to Frank Jezioro, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Director.

On Monday, October 1 at 9 a.m., the Shay #5 engine will depart the Cass train yard carrying three tons of specially baffled culvert liners up Cheat Mountain to Oats Run, a tributary of Shavers Fork. Workers will then install them in culverts, providing native brook trout access to historic upstream spawning areas.

DNR Wildlife Resources Section biologists and West Virginia University research scientists have worked together for years to return once-pristine mountain streams

to conditions that will benefit the prized brook trout. With grant funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, DNR and WVU personnel have been undoing damage done by logging and trains in the early 1900s before the implementation of modern best management practices – damage that makes it difficult for fish to move up and down streams

continue to the next page



Robert Thaxton, from Charleston, caught a 40 1/2" musky.

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to grow and reproduce.

"Many brook trout streams were altered by dredging, installation of railroad culverts and bridges, and early-century logging itself," Jezioro explained. "When you change the streams that way and take away the trees that help keep them cool, it's hard for trout to live in them year-round."

Because this will be a work detail, passengers will not be able to ride along on Shay #5's historic trip. The public is encouraged, however, to visit Cass for the train's 9 a.m. departure as well as to record its progress at normal viewing locations along the track. More information on this special event is available from Cass Scenic Railroad State Park at 304-456-4300.

Oats Run is located near the remote, historic logging town of Spruce. The Shavers Fork watershed, located high on Cheat Mountain in Randolph and Pocahontas counties, has suffered at the hands of progress, but is now undergoing a remarkable makeover. Native brook trout which inhabited these streams once attracted famous sportsmen like Thomas Edison, Harvey Firestone and Henry Ford.



Kayla & Ben Masters are pleased with this catfish. Photo courtesy of Backwater Bait in Newport, Ohio.

WVWM Topo Maps Available Online

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Topographical maps of 23 West Virginia Wildlife Management Areas are now available online, according to Frank Jezioro, director of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The maps, featuring boundaries, contour lines, water features, roads and trails were produced by the DNR Wildlife Resources Section.

"These maps should be a great help to hunters this fall when they head out into the woods," said Jezioro. "Anglers and those just interested in getting outdoors and exploring one of the areas should also find them useful."

Maps for areas around the state are available in different formats and resolutions to accommodate

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different Internet speeds. To view or print a map, go to the DNR website www.wvdnr.gov and click on "New WMA Topo Maps" under "Hunting."

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Brandon Blake reeled in a whopper 47" flathead that weighed an impressive 45 pounds. It was hooked at Burnsville Lake. Photo courtesy of Burnsville Docks.

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John Shomo caught a nice musky. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

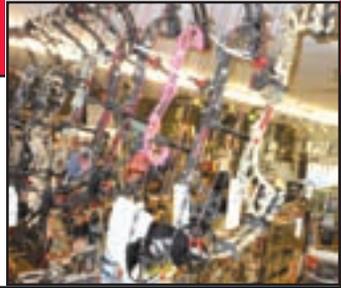
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Miles Bush recorded an archery buck. Photo courtesy of Mr. Clean in Glenville.



Alec Thornsburry took a nice black bear. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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 Details On Page 3

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Deep Crankbait Success Methods

Winding deep crankbaits, especially today's mega-deep runners, can be a chore for anglers who aren't accustomed to it.

Deep cranker Tim Horton says anglers often either give up because it's too tiresome or they struggle with catching and landing fish.

“It's a technique that can be very effective when the bass are on off-shore structure,” he offered. “However, it's a lot different than the shallow cranking that most anglers are accustomed to doing.”

Bass tend to scatter on deep structure in late summer and deep cranking not only catches them, but it helps you cover more water trying to locate them.

Horton says there are five common mistakes that novice deep crankers make — mistakes that are easily corrected.

Mistake #1: Using heavy line

Horton recommends 10- to 12-pound fluorocarbon line. “It's really important for deep diving plugs to achieve their maximum depth,”

the Alabama pro noted. “When a crankbait dives, it has to pull that line with it. Smaller diameter line creates less resistance, and that

continue to the next page



Isaac Cooley, from Lost Creek, hooked a 34 pound catfish.

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allows the bait to dive easier and faster to its maximum depth.”

Fluorocarbon will help, as it has a better sink ratio than braid or monofilament. And because of the reduced stretch in fluorocarbon, you will get better hookups.

Mistake #2: Making short casts

The longer the cast, the more time a bait has to dig deeper, achieve its maximum depth and stay there longer.

Anglers should make sure their reel spools are full and the tension knob adjusted properly to maximize casting distance.

“I like to position my boat so that I’m throwing with the wind at some angle, whenever possible,” explained Horton. “Many of the deep divers are heavy enough that you can really launch them, which is to



Bill Nichloson, from Buckhannon, shot a 49 1/2” spread caribou.

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your advantage when trying to get the bait down and keep it there.”

Mistake #3: Using the wrong equipment

Those 7:1 or faster baitcasters are good for a lot of techniques, but deep cranking isn’t one of them. Reels that are geared at 5.4:1 to 6:1 will not only make turning the handle less of a chore, but will allow the bait to work effectively.

“The fast reels create a lot of torque under the load of a big crankbait, and after a few hours, your arms are going to get tired,” said Horton.

Rods matter, too. Horton prefers rods with a minimum length

of 7 feet, and 7 1/2-foot rods are even better. Longer rods (he uses a Duckett 7-6 medium action) not only help launch the bait, but they continue to the next page



Anthony Clay caught a 22 pound flathead catfish. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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take up more line and load the rod faster during a hook set.

“You don’t want a heavy action rod; you need something with a slower tip,” he added. “I like a medium or medium-heavy action that has good backbone.”

The longer, softer rod absorbs the shock of a big fish making a lunge around the boat. That unexpected hard plunge can rip the hooks free, but a softer rod will help dampen it and keep the hooks buried.

Mistake #4: Maintaining a poor rod angle

Many anglers position their rod to the side when they begin their retrieve, which puts more bend in the rod and adds resistance on arms between the wrist and the elbow.

“I point the rod directly at the lure during the retrieve and follow it all the way back,” Horton described. “That puts the resistance on the grip of your hands, not your arms.”

Mistake #5: Using dull hooks

Sharp hooks are imperative to

catching and landing quality bass. Recreational anglers tend to fish the same stock hooks throughout the season.

“It’s really critical to watch that front treble hook when fishing around anything hard (rocks, riprap or shellbeds),” he said. “That hook will dull after extended scraping on hard bottoms.”

Horton periodically “touches up” the point of hooks after a few hours of fishing, and if he notices the shank slightly bent, he will replace it immediately.

“It’s not uncommon for me to change the front hook on a crank-bait two or three times during a day of fishing,” he added.

Good luck and go cranking!



Johnm Crum, from Logan, reeled in a 35” carp.

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Bear Hunting

Game Commission officials point out that one of the biggest mistakes bear hunters make is failing to locate areas with good fall food supplies – acorns, beechnuts, apples, corn – before the hunting season and overlooking areas of dense cover where bears like to hide.

“Signs to look for while scouting include droppings; bedding areas, which are scratched out depressions, usually at the base of a tree or log; and active trails with tracks,” said Mark Ternent, Game Commission black bear biologist. “In beech stands, look for fresh claw marks on tree trunks indicating that bears are feeding in the area, and in oak stands look for fresh droppings that are almost completely composed of acorns bits. Either of these signs suggests bears are feeding nearby and, if food conditions are right, they will likely still be there come hunting season. A good time to scout is early November, so you can assess local mast conditions.”



RD Walters shot a nice black bear..
Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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Other bear hunting tips include:

Look for bears in the thickest cover you can find, such as: swamps and bogs, mountain laurel/rhododendron thickets, north-facing slopes, regenerating timber-harvest areas, wind-blown areas with lots of downed trees, and remote sections of river bottoms. Bigger bears are notorious for holding in thick cover, even when hunters pass nearby.

Organized drives are effective.
continue to the next page



Brian Craig, from Rivesville, used a bow for a nice black bear.

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Hunters working together often increase their odds of taking bears, especially those bears holding out in thick cover. Develop plans to safely drive likely bear hideouts and follow them to the letter. A minor slip-up by a driver, flanker or stander is all a bear needs to elude even the best-planned drive.

Hunting on-stand early and late in the day gives hunters a great



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chance to catch bears traveling to and from feeding and bedding areas. Hunt areas that provide cover to traveling bears and ensure there is either a good supply of mast or cornfields or cover near where you plan to hunt.

Use the wind to your advantage. If a bear gets a whiff of you, you're busted as a hunter. Bears have an outstanding sense of smell. They often let their noses guide the way as they travel. Always place yourself downwind of expected travel lanes when hunting on-stand or driving. Bears are cagey enough without giving them more advantages.

Stay focused and assume nothing. Black bears blend in well in forest settings at dawn and as dusk approaches. Spend too much time looking one way and you can miss

a bear. Even though bears are quite heavy, they often are surprisingly quiet moving through the forest. You may see a bear before you hear it coming. Staying alert and remaining vigilant are critical.



Young Clayton Lee got his 1st archery buck. *Photo courtesy of Trappers Den in Cowan.*



Maverick Williams, from Belington, shot a 4 horned ram.

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WV Big Buck Contest Begins

FRENCH CREEK, W.Va. – The September 29 opening of the bow hunting season for deer also marks the beginning of the annual West Virginia Big Buck Contest. Antlered deer taken between September 29 and December 31, 2012, are eligible to be scored and entered.

“During this time, any hunter who bags a deer in West Virginia with antlers having eight or more points, a 26-inch beam length and points that are more than eight inches long may have a winning buck,” according to Gene Thorn, chairman of the West Virginia Big Buck Contest Review Committee. “Antlers will be measured according to the official scoring system for North American big game animals established by the Boone and Crockett Club.”

Plaques will be awarded to eight overall first place winners for typical and non-typical bucks in gun, bow, muzzleloader and crossbow (physically challenged) categories at next year’s National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration, which will be held at Stonewall Resort State Park on the fourth weekend in September.

Gun and muzzleloader hunters whose bucks score more than 140 points typical or 165 non-typical will receive certificates commemo-

rating the entry of their bucks into the West Virginia Big Buck Contest and Records Keeping Program. Bowhunters or physically challenged crossbow hunters whose bucks score more than 125 points typical or 155 non-typical will also receive certificates.

There were 105 new entries into the Big Buck Records last year that were taken during the 2011 season. The season total showed 28 bucks taken by gun hunters, two by muzzleloaders, 23 by bowhunters and two by crossbows (physically challenged). Bucks taken in previous years may still be scored for a certificate and entry into the records, if they meet the minimum score.

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Michael Topping was featured with a Pope & Young buck ten years ago. He took a 138 class buck this season with his bow.



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Ben Bintz hooked the big bass, 3-7, at the Ohio River Championship.



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Chris Newell used an arrow for this 10 point buck. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



John Rominger & Steve Furbee hooked a 3-4 Ohio River bass.



Young Angelo Pennesi landed a nice largemouth bass.

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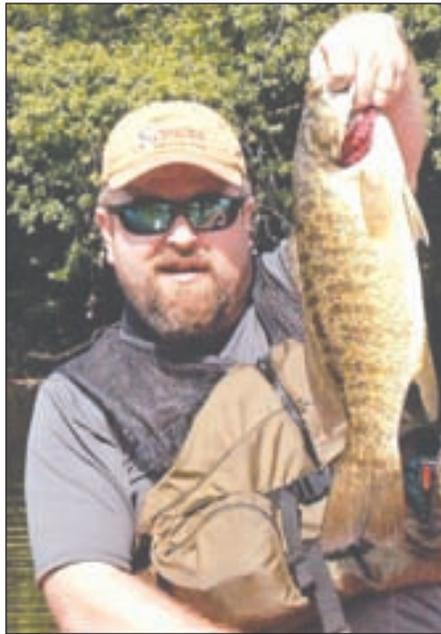
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Michael Morrison hooked a 30” channel catfish.



Ron Williams, from Charles Town, caught a 20 3/8” smallmouth.

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.22 Special Purpose Ammo

There are several ways to organize any ammunition "roundup." It could, for example, be listed by manufacturer. Organizing the various .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire (WMR) loads by manufacturer has one obvious advantage, in that not all brands are available in all areas, so the reader can skip to the brand(s) he or she can actually purchase.



Reese Bennett landed a 4 pound smallmouth bass.

The most difficult way to present the information, unfortunately, strikes me as one of the most useful. That is, to list the various loads by the purpose for which they are most useful. So I am going to try to do both. I will list each brand, and then in sub headings the purposes for which the various loads are best suited.

In the case of .22 WMR ammunition, that is basically varmint hunting, small game hunting, plinking, and self-defense. Those are the purposes I will address in this ammunition survey.

Varmint/Predator hunting

Varmints are small animals that are usually not eaten, and are often shot at comparatively long range. Examples of varmints include marmots (groundhogs and rock

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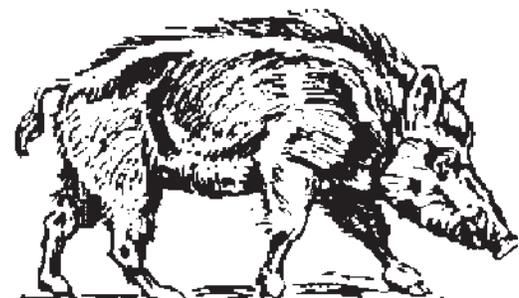


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and ground squirrels. Some of these creatures are larger and tougher than most small game animals and preserving an edible carcass is not a consideration.

The small predators include coyote, fox, bobcat, opossum, raccoon, and similar size carnivores. These are tougher and harder to put down than varmints, but are still within the capability of the .22 WMR cartridge within its maximum point blank range of about 125 yards if the right bullet is used.

The loads most commonly recommended for shooting varmints and small predators are the 30-40 grain jacketed hollow point (JHP) bullets. This type of ammunition provides the greatest killing power available in .22 WMR caliber.

Small game hunting

Small game refers to edible creatures such as squirrels and rabbits. The key ingredient in small game ammunition is adequate killing power to insure a quick, clean kill without blowing the game apart. Headshots are best when hunting



Cody Fultineer arrowed his 1st buck.

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small game, as no edible meat is then wasted. Most 30-40 grain JHP bullets can be very destructive if body shots are employed.

I don't recommend the 40 grain full metal jacket (FMJ) or total metal jacket (TMJ) bullets for hunting small game, although some manufacturers do. These bullets do not expand at all, and often zip right through the animal's body, creating a fatal wound but allowing the animal to escape before it succumbs. Those collecting fur bearing animals sometimes use these loads, as they do minimal damage to the pelt.

Good choices for small game hunting include the Remington and PMC 40 grain jacketed soft point (JSP) bullets, Federal 50 grain JHP bullet, and Winchester 45 grain copper plated lead Dynapoint bul-

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let. These expand but are less destructive than the standard 40 grain JHP bullets.

Plinking/Practice

"Plinking" refers to informal shooting at casual targets. The time-honored practice continues to the next page



Amy Bowling used a bow for her 6 point. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

IT'S BOAT SEASON AT MID-STATE MARINA

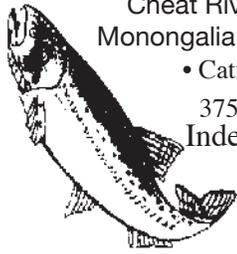
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ored tin can is probably the most common plinking target, but there are endless alternatives. Some of the most common include Necco candy wafers, fired shotgun shells, wooden matches, jar lids, paper plates, potatoes, and all manner of paper targets. There are even paper

targets made specifically for plinking. Unfortunately, glass bottles are also common plinking targets, but should never be shot; broken glass will inevitably become a problem for someone. My favorite plinking target is the ordinary "clay pigeon" used by trap and skeet shooters. They are reactive, safe, fragile and degradable.

Any ammunition can be used for practice and plinking. Cost is often the primary consideration due to the high volume of ammunition expended. Personally, in .22 WMR, my standard 40 grain JHP hunting ammunition is also my general purpose, practice and plinking ammunition. Plinking and practice are probably the best uses for the .22 WMR FMJ bullets.

Special purpose ammunition

There are also loads designed for special purposes. An example would be the CCI .22 WMR shot load. CCI recommends their shot shells for pest control, which I

take to mean killing rats, mice, and snakes at very close range (under 15 feet). For longer ranges, use standard small game or varmint hunting ammunition.

.22 WRF (Winchester Rim Fire) ammunition may be used in .22
continue to the next page



Reagan Lynch, from Arnoldsburg, shot a 8 point last season.



Mika Belt bagged a Canadian bear recently. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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WMR guns in the same way that .38 Special ammunition may be fired in .357 magnum rifles and revolvers. .22 WRF ammo will probably not cycle autoloading actions, and may cause feeding problems in repeating arms due to its shorter overall length.

The .22 WRF is a fine small game hunting cartridge as well as being useful for plinking and practice. CCI does not recommend the use of their .22 WRF ammunition in .22 WMR revolvers because of its copper jacketed bullet. The Winchester .22 WRF load uses a Lubaloy plated lead flat nose (LFN) bullet and is fine for use in revolvers.

Self defense

.22 WMR ammunition is not specifically manufactured for self-defense, so you will not find self defense loads in any of the manufacturers' brands listed below. This is because while there are some "deep concealment" handguns (notably the mini-revolvers from North American Arms) that are chambered for the .22 WMR cartridge, no rimfire cartridge is ordinarily recommended for self-defense. The gun makers are giv-

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ing the customers what they want, while the ammo makers are constrained by the physical reality that no .22 WMR cartridge is a "man stopper."

While no .22 WMR load is really adequate for self-defense, any gun is better than no gun at all. So, if a .22 WMR rifle or pistol is all that is available, it makes sense to at least use the best ammunition available for the purpose. Accord-

ing to the statistics that I have seen, that is the 40 grain jacketed hollow point bullet. The top example is the Winchester Super-X load, which is what I carry in my NAA Black Widow mini-revolver.



Randall Alderman & James Smith hunted in Boone Co. last year for these wild boar.

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OKLAHOMA CITY — A Federation Nation member has combined his passion for fishing with his musical talent to support an eco-friendly nonprofit organization.

Singer and songwriter Randy Joe Heavin has compiled an album featuring 12 artists who have written songs about fishing. The collection, *Songs from the Tackle Box*, was created to benefit Recycled Fish, a fishing advocacy group founded by Teeg Stouffer. Heavin, a member of the North Oklahoma City Bassmasters and Mid-Oklahoma Bassmasters, wrote and performed two of the songs on the CD.

"I figured I could get a little exposure for some of my music and help Teeg out and Teeg could help me out," said Heavin, who has ded-

icated 50 percent of the CD sales to Recycled Fish.

Heavin noted sales for the CD have reached the break-even point. "Any sales we get now we will start making money and can contribute," he said.

After 21 years in the Air Force, Heavin retired to pursue a career in music. The avid tournament angler founded his own record label, Patriot Records, in 2005, and one of his songs on the benefit album, "I Wanna Go Fishing," has received 75,000 hits on YouTube.

You can order a hard copy of the CD or download the album on iTunes.



Cole Joy, from Lubeck, bagged his 1st squirrel.



Chris Allen, from Gassaway, bagged a spring gobbler.

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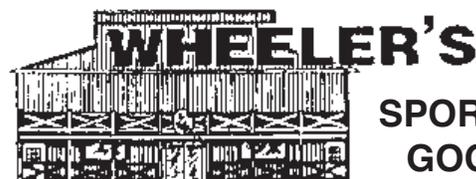
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Dave Shaffer had early bow success. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



Dan Hathaway arrowed a buck. Photo courtesy of Mr. Clean in Glenville.



A 550 pound full weight black bear was taken in Randolph Co. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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Mike Fleak used a bow for this great 12 point. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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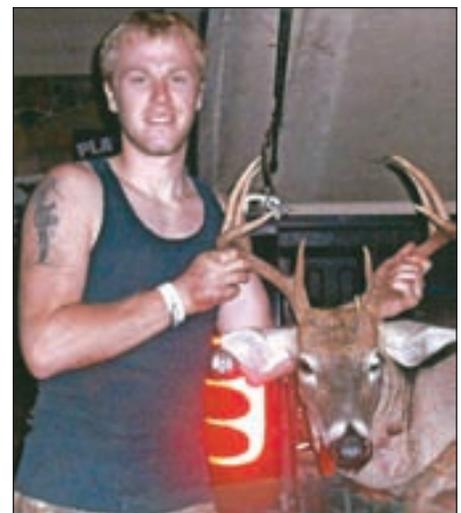
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Dakota Harvey arrowed an 8 point. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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Archery Season

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. West Virginia's 2012 archery seasons for deer and bear opened on September 29, and the wild boar archery season opens on October 13. While the wild boar and traditional deer archery seasons remain about the same as last year, the bear archery season begins earlier and closes later. In addition to an earlier opening date, the bear archery season is now a split season that runs from September 29 through November 17 and December 3 through December 31.

The states expanding bear population can sustain additional archery



Chuck Southerly, from Moorefield, caught a 21 1/2" largemouth.

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GAME CHECKING

hunting opportunities" said Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the Division of Natural Resources. "As a result, we have established an earlier opening date and added a new December segment to the season framework. Hunters are reminded they need appropriate stamps if they wish to harvest additional deer during the archery season. One or two additional archery deer may be taken with Class RB (Resident) or Class RRB (Nonresident) stamps (one deer per stamp), depending on the county being hunted. (Check the 2012 " 2013 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for details.)

Hunters should also note that in 10 counties or portions thereof they must take an antlerless archery deer prior to harvesting a second antlered deer during the archery deer season. The additional archery stamps (Class RB and Class RRB) must be purchased prior to the September 29 season opening date.

Special regulations exist for the four archery-only deer hunting

counties: Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming. In these counties, only two archery deer may be taken, one of which must be antler-

continue to the next page



Richard Board, from Palestine, hooked an 18 pound blue catfish.

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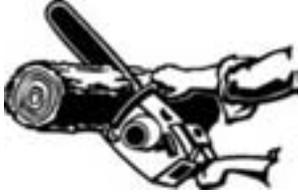
less.

In all counties, legal resident landowners hunting on their own property and holders of Class DT (Life-threatening Conditions) licenses may use Class RB/RRB stamp privileges without stamp purchase.

In addition to a base license, bear hunters must purchase a Bear Damage Stamp (Class DS) to hunt bear in West Virginia. Two bear may be taken during the archery or the gun season (or one each in the archery and gun seasons) provided at least one bear is taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Raleigh or Wyoming counties. Other than the Class DS stamp, no additional stamps are needed to harvest the second bear.

Wild boar hunting is for West Virginia residents only. One wild boar may be harvested per year (either during the archery or gun season). Only Boone, Logan, Raleigh and Wyoming counties are open to boar archery and firearm seasons.

Consult the 2012 - 2013 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary available at any WVDNR office, license agents, or by visiting the WVDNR website at www.wvdnr.gov.

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Patriot Day Tree Planting

DAVIS, W.Va. – “National Day of Service and Remembrance” was established by Congress and is a day that encourages people to do to a simple act of kindness or some public service to honor those lost to the 9/11/2001 attack. It is also known as Patriot Day and is ob-

served on September 11 each year.

On Tuesday, September 11, 2012, AmeriCorps Volunteers embarked on a massive red spruce relocation program in honor of Patriot Day. Blackwater Falls State Park in Tucker County hosted the vol-

continue to the next page



Doug Britton used a bow for this 9 point. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



Frank Michaels went on a trip for some stripers. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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unteers, who worked a total of 96 man-hours and dug up more than 1,800 Red Spruce seedlings from power line rights-of-way and transplanted them to the Pendleton Lake Recreation Area of the park.

“The tree seedlings that establish themselves naturally in maintained rights-of-ways were collected, saved in advance of spraying or cutting, and used as part of the Central Appalachian Spruce Restoration Initiative (CASRI),” said Paulita Cousin, naturalist at Blackwater Falls. Blackwater Falls State Park is a participating agency in the CASRI initiative. Red spruce

(Picea rubens) is a native species to the Blackwater Falls area and the seedlings are being planted to provide connectivity to existing stands in the high Appalachians in the eastern United States.

A moment of silence was observed to remember those who died in the 9/11 attack and the planting was done in their honor. Assistant Superintendent Scott Fortney participated and supervised the volunteer crews in honor of his father, Dr. Ronald H. Fortney, who was instrumental in initiating native species restoration projects in the state of West Virginia. Dr. Fortney would have been 64 years old on September 11.

To learn more about CASRI visit: www.restoreredspruce.org. For information about plants and trees, the U.S. Department of Agriculture website www.plants.usda.gov offers extensive details about the demographics and characteristics of the species



Al Nottingham, from Parkersburg, went on a northern moose hunt. Photo courtesy of Clark's Taxidermy in Parkersburg.

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Selecting Your Arrow

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row for your bow.

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Select arrow within the correct weight range for your bow's draw weight. For instance, manufactures measure arrow weight in "grains." One grain equals approximately 64 milligrams. Manufacturers rate bow draw weight in pounds. Draw weight means how much force in pounds an archer must use to draw back the bow's string. A 60-pound bow requires 60 pounds of force to draw the string. Sixty pounds of force equals the amount of force it would take for a person to lift 60 pounds. The draw weight

must match the arrow's grain. Too light or too heavy arrows for a bow's draw will wobble as they fly through the air. The correct ratio for choosing arrows equals 6 grains for
continue to the next page



Chris Quick, from Buckhannon, landed an 18 1/2" white bass. *Photo courtesy of Mountaineer Wildlife Artistry in Jane Lew.*



Denny Kerns went to the Tygart River to land this musky.

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every pound of draw. A bow with 50 pounds of draw requires a 300-grain arrow.

Compare the weight of the arrow's tip. The tip of an arrow helps stabilize the arrow during flight. It also provides puncture strength. Too light an arrow tip destabilizes the arrow and ruins aim. Light arrowheads also don't puncture targets or prey as well as heavier tips. Average arrow tip weight ranges from 75 grains to 125 grains. Average tip weights work well for draw weights between 40 and 80 pounds. Use lighter tips for weaker 15-pound to 20-pound bows. Use heavier tips for stronger, 100-pound or higher bows.



Luke Corley, from Fairmont, hooked a 22" Stonewall Jackson Lake largemouth bass.



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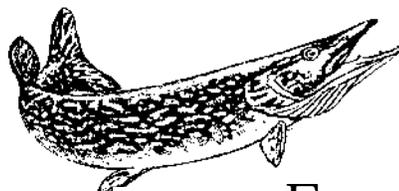
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