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Issue 213

Hunting 2011



**13 Point
Archery**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Deer
TIPS**

**B.A.S.S.
NEWS**

**DNR
Updates**

Outdoor Photos



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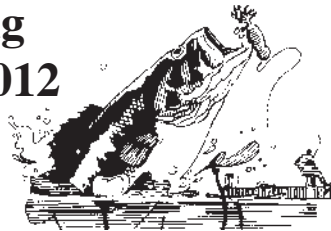
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Cover Photo

Nathan Whitt, from Chapmanville, had archery success with this quality 13 point. It looks like it was in a buck fight and had a couple of broken tines. Mail or email your buck pics this year.

Should be a great year for massive racks. Mast was strong last year and should help for racks.

This magazine is online each month : www.wvasportsman.net

Photo courtesy of Triple J's SPorting Goods in Sumerco - near Sod.

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Big Buck Season Begins

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia's traditional antlered buck gun season begins on Monday, Nov. 21, according to Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the Division of Natural Resources (DNR). West Virginia's buck gun season provides a wealth of recreational opportunities for resident and nonresident hunters and has a tremendous economic impact on the state's economy.

"Hunters should enjoy a great season of hunting in 2011," said Taylor. "Mast conditions are not as good this year as last year, and deer will be more concentrated around specific food sources. In addition, there should be more mature bucks available to hunters this year because of the lower harvest

and abundant food conditions in 2010."

Taylor reminds hunters that they can harvest an additional buck with the purchase of the appropriate stamp. Resident hunters wanting the extra buck should purchase the Class RG stamp. The RG stamp must be purchased prior to the beginning of the season, and the cost is \$21. The RG stamp must be accompanied by a Class A and BG,

continue to the next page



Jake Work used his bow for his 1st buck. Photo courtesy of J&R Sporting Goods in Shinnston.

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A-L, AB-L, X, XJ, or free license. Resident landowners have the privilege of harvesting the extra buck without purchasing the RG stamp if they are hunting on their own property.

"The extra buck stamp could prove to be a good investment this hunting season because the number of mature bucks being spotted by DNR field personnel and hunters is higher than normal," Taylor said.

Nonresident hunters wanting an extra buck must purchase an RRG stamp prior to the beginning of the season, and the cost is \$43. The RRG stamp must be accompanied



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by the Class E or XXJ license. Nonresident hunters who own land in West Virginia are not exempt from purchasing a license or the extra buck stamp, even if hunting on their own property.

Many counties are open to concurrent antlerless hunting during the traditional buck gun season. Antlerless hunting starts on Nov. 21 on private land in open counties and Nov. 23 on public land on open wildlife management areas (WMA). Hunters should consult

the 2011-2012 Hunting Regulations and Summary for specific antlerless deer regulations in each county and WMA.



Tanner Holstein, from Sandyville, hooked a channel catfish.

~ WANTED ~

No DOES

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Elk Escape From PA

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) has confirmed with officials from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) that at least two elk, including one adult bull and one cow, have escaped from a captive cervid facility (deer and elk farms) in Greene County, Pa. Greene County shares a common border with Marshall, Wetzell and Monongalia counties in West Virginia.

The elk escaped from a captive cervid facility located approximately three miles from the West Virginia-Pennsylvania border.

The PDA regulates captive cervid facilities in Pennsylvania. A representative of the agency was unaware if the recent escaped elk were tagged. The WVDNR regulates captive cervid facilities in West Virginia. In West Virginia, all captive cervids in breeding fa-

continue to the next page



Zack Longfellow, from Belleville got his 1st squirrel.

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cilities must be ear-tagged, and there are currently no reported elk escapes from any facility in West Virginia.

A bull elk has been seen recently in Wetzel County, W.Va., according to WVDNR officials. There have been no reports of cow elk sightings in either Wetzel County, W.Va., or Greene County, Pa. No free-ranging wild elk live within 150 miles of Wetzel County. The elk sighted in Wetzel County is likely the escaped animal from the captive facility in Pennsylvania.

Contact between escaped captive deer or elk and free-ranging white-tailed deer increases the risk of disease transmission from the captive animals to the native herd, according WVDNR biologists. The movement and/or escape of captive deer and elk increases this risk of contact and are one of the many possible modes of transmission for

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) from captive cervids to free-ranging white-tailed deer.

The State of Missouri recently documented CWD in a captive cervid facility. Texas Parks and Wildlife had to euthanize a large captive deer herd after illegal importation of white-tailed deer from a captive facility in Arkansas.

“Monitoring and protecting West Virginia’s deer herd from CWD and other diseases is crucial to West Virginia’s economy and its natural resources,” said WVDNR Director Frank Jezioro. “Deer hunting provides tremendous recreational opportunities for hunters and wildlife viewers, has a large economic impact on its rural communities, and brings in many out-of-state hunters each season to West Virginia.”

Contact the Farmington District Office at 304-825-6787 if they see an elk in these counties.

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Donetta Grose, from Hico, arrowed a nice buck.

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Roger Deem shot a 2,300 pound bison. Photo courtesy of Clark's Taxidermy in Parkersburg.



Jim Hern went out west for this big bull elk. Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawn-brokers in Beckley.

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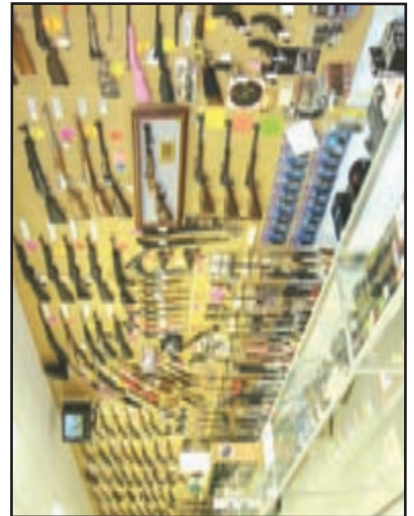
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Richard Petty, from Vienna, used a bow in Wood County for this exceptional 13 pointer. Look for lots of big racks this season. Last years great mast has an impact on the next season. Mail or email your pics to this magazine. Look for a form on page 38. Good luck!

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Jay Cummings got a 393 pound field dressed black bear. *Photo courtesy of Bow Shop In Hepzibah.*

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Greg Lawrantz had an 8 point with his bow. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*



Delbert Northern used a bow for a nice buck. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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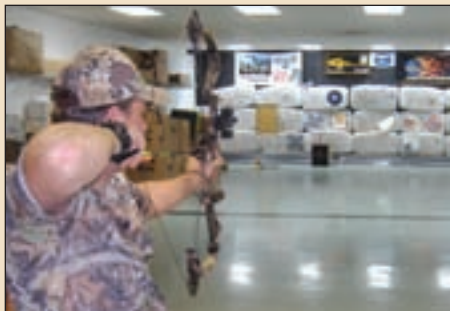
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Alabama Rigging

Demand for the Alabama rig is extraordinarily high right now and almost certainly higher than it will ever be again. At Andy Poss' TheAlabamaRig.com, all of their items are listed as being "temporarily out of stock" and the backlog has been listed as five weeks for over a week. It's obviously going to take them a while to catch up.

Meanwhile, on the "gray" market, Alabama rigs made by Poss' company were selling on eBay for nearly \$150 while homemade versions of the rig were going for about half that. As this story goes to post, the going rate on knock offs appears to be \$30-40 ... not bad for something most sellers are making in their garage for pennies on the dollar.

Luckily for anglers, there are commercial alternatives out there, and there will certainly be more very soon.

One alternative comes out of neighboring Georgia from Sworming Hornet Lures (SwormingHornetLures.com), perhaps best known for their Fish Head Spin lure. They



Bryan Utt brought in a quality Logan Co. 11 point. *Photo courtesy of WV Wild Outdoors in Hico.*

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call their castable umbrella rig "The Swarm." More variations will certainly be on the way in the rising

tide of all this excitement.

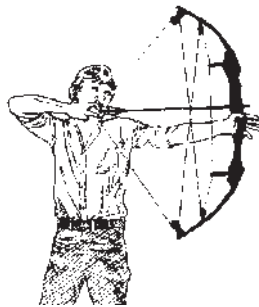
We can only guess at the future of
continue to the next page

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Andy Poss' company and his Alabama rig, but it's a fact of life that the fishing industry is extremely predatory. You don't have to attend many ICAST conventions before you realize that today's innovative new product is tomorrow's target for bigger companies with larger production systems and better distribution. Even for the little guy who makes a product that's demonstrably "better," it's almost impossible to withstand the crush of new rigs that's certainly coming ... and fast.

Maybe Poss sells his patent (still pending) and his company to one of the giants, or maybe he weathers the storm and winds up on top. Either way, his devise is only a derivative of an earlier rig, not something truly new. The reality is that other manufacturers won't have to change much to get around his patent, and a five week backlog is simply not going to work for a fishing public that wants the Alabama rig right now — not in five weeks when most bass anglers around the country will have traded their front deck pedestal for a recliner in front of the flat screen.

Industry Impact

It remains to be seen just how the Alabama rig will impact the sport of bass fishing and tournament fishing in particular. Its primary benefit seems to be for targeting suspended

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bass and offering them a presentation they haven't seen before (unless they share water with striped bass and trollers who are already using umbrella rigs).

Of course, manufacturers of these castable umbrella rigs maintain they also work with five topwater baits or five of just about anything you can imagine. Let's leave it to the angling community to quickly figure out how to use the rig and get the most out of it. Bass fishermen are a creative group, and it's almost certain that someone will figure out a great way to use it that isn't even
 continue to the next page



Roy Wood got a nice bear. Photo courtesy of Friendly's Bass N Buck in Summersville.



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on the horizon right now.

Personally, I'm waiting to see Gerald Swindle — the Elite Series' premier "junk" fisherman — tie on an Alabama rig with a spinner-bait, a jerkbait, a shallow-running crankbait, a lipless crankbait and a topwater on it, all at once! Then, instead of keeping 10 rods on his deck, each with a different lure, he'll only need two.

Or how about Kevin VanDam setting up his Alabama rig with five Strike King Red Eye Shads? If you thought he could cover water before, you ain't seen nothin' yet!

And we haven't even talked about how the rig might impact other aspects of the industry. Ever wondered what a net for the Alabama rig might look like? Luckily, a bass angler with some Photoshop skills has already figured it out.

The Slippery Slope

Whatever the future of the Alabama rig, one debate for right now concerns the morality and "proper" use of the rig. Just as many anglers are excited about the potential ways they can fish it, others maintain it should be banned altogether, restricted from tournament use or that it's somehow "unfair" to the



Keiling Fife arrowed a great 8 point. Photo courtesy of Clark's Taxidermy in Parkersburg.

fish and removes challenge from the sport.

The first issue, banning it, will be handled on a state-by-state or even water-by-water basis as state and local agencies assess the perceived threats posed by the rigs. Similarly, its use in tournaments will be decided by the various circuits around the country and world, though it should be noted that other

rigs offering more than one lure to the fish have been permitted for generations. The double-fluke rig, drop shot/shakey head combo and variations on the old Norman Front Runner come immediately to mind.

As for those who believe the umbrella rig is somehow unsportsmanlike, you should know that
continue to page 17

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the same argument has been made for side-imaging, GPS, sonar and even the plastic worm. When these tools were introduced, a segment of the public clamored that they be outlawed because they were so effective, so destructive and so easy to use and catch fish that the bass couldn't possibly withstand their widespread use.

The bottom line is that the Alabama rig is a tool and a small piece in a very large puzzle. It won't catch even one bass unless an angler puts it in front of one with the right bait attached and retrieved at the proper speed.

Eventually, the hype and hoopla surrounding the Alabama rig will die down, just as it did for the Heddon River Runt, the Creme Wiggle Worm, the Rapala floating minnow, the Big-O, the Lunker Lure buzz-bait, the Carolina rig, the Zoom Fluke, the Yamamoto Senko and legions of other baits and rigs that may have lost some of their luster but retain a place in the sport and

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Gene Hornbeck, from Buckhannon, used a muzzleloader = gobbler.



Nicki Gaspard got her 1st archery buck. Photo courtesy of Bow Shop In Hepzibah.

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Boat Ramp Repaired

CHARLES TOWN, W.Va. – Repairs to the boat ramp at Moulton Park on the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County are completed, according to Bret Preston, assistant chief of the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR).

“The concrete ramp was damaged and it was difficult to launch boats,” Preston said. “A new ramp was installed in the same place and is now open to anglers and boaters.”

Jefferson County owns the boat ramp and park and entered into a cooperative agreement with the WVDNR for the repairs and maintaining the site for continued public access. The repair work is made possible through the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration funds and matching fishing license revenue through the WVDNR. Anglers and boaters support projects like this through the purchase of fishing licenses and through a federal excise tax on fishing tackle and motor boat fuel taxes.

The Moulton Park boat ramp is located just downstream from the Route 9 bridge east of Charles Town on Bloomery Road. A gravel parking lot provides adequate vehicle parking for boat trailers.

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Jay Cox went to Ohio for a large archery deer. Photo courtesy of Outdoor Specialties in Winfield.

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A nice 9 point Wood County buck was arrowed by Bryan Jones. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown,

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Frankie Hought landed an 8 3/4 pound largemouth at Stonewall.



James Barnette trapped an unusual black coyote in Braxton County.

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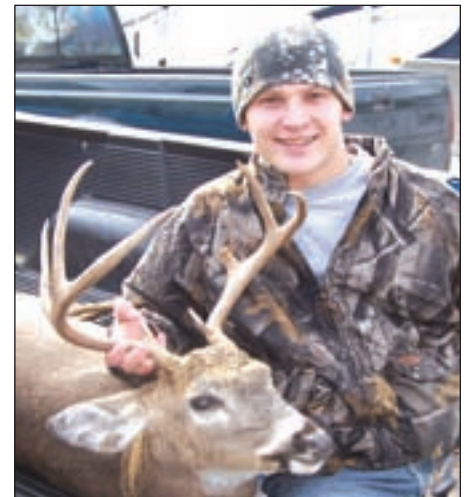
BACK ISSUES FROM 2006 ON ARE THERE TOO



Homer Farley bowed an 8 pont.
Photo courtesy of J& R Sporting Goods
in Shinnston.



Mike Hawkins went to Ohio for
this 180 class. Photo courtesy of J& R
Sporting Goods in Shinnston.



Jacob Woodrum got a nice archery
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Craig Wilson bowed a big 13 pointer. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



Jarred Stutler trapped 2 albino muskrats. Photo courtesy of Stutler's Furs, Hides, Roots & Herbs.



Joey Frasher had an archery buck. Photo courtesy of Willie's Sport Shop In Glenville.

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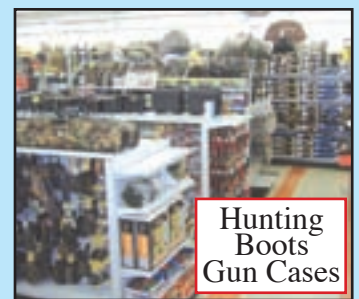
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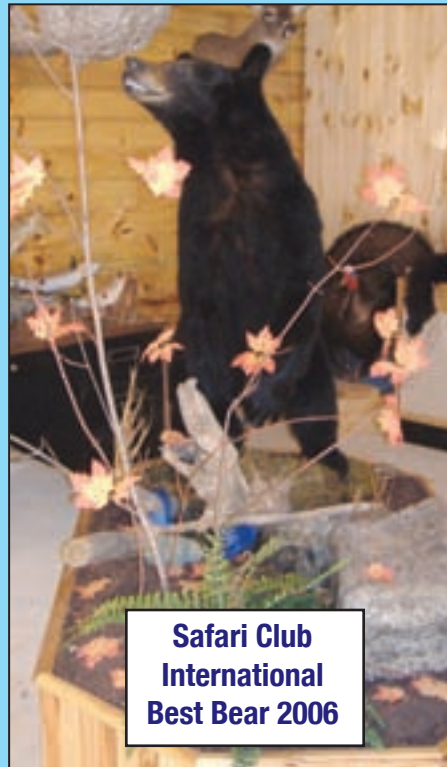
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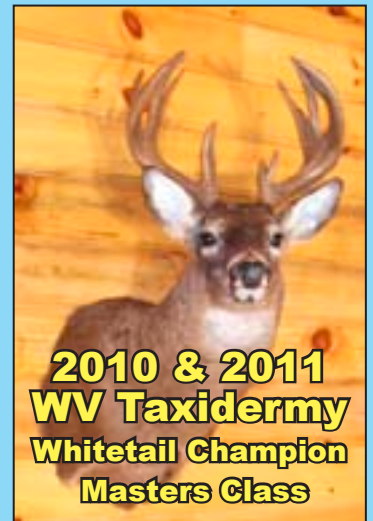
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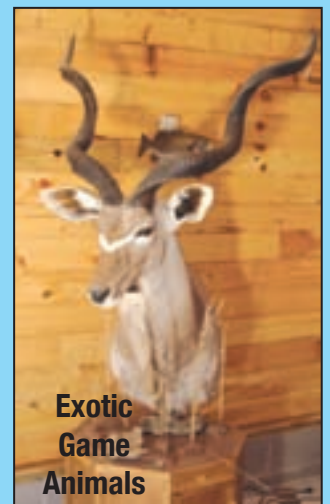
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Baiting Deer

The question of whether or not to bait whitetails has caused many discussions and arguments. There are hunters who bait constantly because it's legal in their area, there are hunters who bait their property when it's not legal, and there are hunters who just don't bait. As to any argument, there are always pros and cons of both sides.

There are many days when I hunt that I'm glad there are "no baiting" laws in Missouri and there are days when I wish I could put a little something out just to see some action! All in all, do hunters that bait legally take every deer they see? Do hunters that don't bait take every deer they see? Are you going to see more deer if you bait? What is considered bait? All these questions leave mixed feelings in a hunters mind.

Typically it is the young hunter who enjoys setting out some bait and catching that whitetail off guard. Many of our senior hunters prefer to hunt the old fashion way. Just because your state allows baiting to take place does not mean you have to participate in this action. Many hunters choose not to bait their area because they feel it is ethically wrong.

I am reminded of a scene in a show I used to watch called King of the Hill where Hank takes his son Bobby out deer hunting. They go to a hunting spot and sit over a feeder. This depiction is accurate to many hunters. They sit there and see a deer come in but Bobby just can't shoot it because it was drawn in by feed. They leave the hunting area having felt they did the right thing. Or did they?

There are hunters out there who feel so strongly about not baiting deer that they throw out the word unethical. Is baiting deer where it is legal really unethical? The main

continue to the next page

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Danny Stump Jr. bagged a bow bear. *Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.*

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honey hole spots on my hunting area are water and food sources. Since Missouri had baiting laws, am I practicing an illegal act if I hunt over soybeans or corn? In the Conservation Departments eyes I'm not. But how is this different than putting out corn every week in a feeder for deer to frequent? Either way the deer are drawn in by food. The same could be said about water. If you hunt over a water source, are you using the water as bait to harvest a whitetail?

So why do all the states in this great country have laws about what you can and can't do when it comes to feeding deer? In Missouri, the laws are very strict about baiting and what you can and cannot use. For example, I can put out salt or mineral licks during hunting season while I hunt, but they cannot have grain in them. I can also bait for

the purpose of drawing deer to my property and to catch them on my trail cameras, but I have to remove that bait ten days before I actually hunt the area. Why the regulations and why all the laws? Could it be that some hunters abuse the baiting practice? I would guess so. Let's face it, there are hunters out there who do not have good ethics and do not have good morals and they will use any means they have to kill a deer. That would be my guess as to why Missouri has baiting laws that forbid baiting deer during hunting season. We've all heard the line that all it takes is one person to ruin it for everyone. Well this may just have happened.

So why not bait? What's so wrong about baiting whitetails to your property? If you have the money to spend on corn or other minerals or attractants why not use them? I have to admit if I lived in a state where that was allowed, I would be greatly tempted to run a feeder year round. My main goal as a hunter is not to get that giant buck every year (although it would be nice) but it's to harvest deer so that deer herd numbers don't get overwhelming and so that I can help feed my family and others through a shared har-

continue to the next page

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Back Issues From 2006



Randy Waggoner brought in an archery buck. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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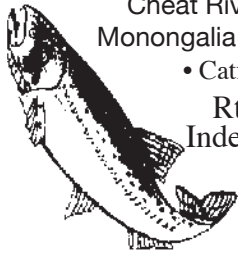
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vest program. I guess you could say I have a problem with baiting deer to ONLY shoot those big bucks. If you're going to bait whitetails, you should harvest the does as well.

What types of bait are there to use if it is legal or if I want to set some out for trail cams? I strongly recommend visiting your local MFA or Agri-services center. Setting out whole corn or even cracked corn will do. Many people get fooled into buying apple corn or other flavorful treats that deer love, but to me, it's unnecessary. In fact, the deer on my property eat regular whole or cracked corn faster than the apple corn. Apple corn also seems to attract the raccoons and opossums in my area faster than regular corn.

What I don't buy is the bagged mineral mixes. I was once given a bag from a friend of mine and it was in pellet form. By the look of

the bag it would bring in the largest bucks in all of North America! Naturally I was skeptical. I placed it out in front of my trail cams and saw normal deer movement through the area, but none of the deer even ate the pellets. This bag had a strong aroma of apple. When I went to check my trail cams I noticed all the pellets had swollen up and become a large ball of mush. Do the research yourself, and find what will work the best in your area. I only lay out corn and the occasional salt lick and trophy rock. Other than that, my money is not supporting it.

I am a believer that bait should only be used to view, via trail cameras, what's in your area. I also set out mineral licks not because I can but because I want the deer on my property to get the nutrients they need to survive and live healthy. Let's face it; we don't want deer that are malnourished or diseased. As always, check with your con-

servation department on baiting laws. Find out if your area of the state allows it and find out what the consequences are if baiting is done illegally. Most importantly, if your state or area does not allow it, don't cheat. Cheating will lead to hefty fines and possible hunting restrictions placed upon you. If your state allows baiting, do it the correct way. If you are trying to tag that bruiser make sure you also harvest the does as well. I recommend helping out the hungry in your area one way or another. Use the map to determine if your state allows baiting. Make sure you check with your department of conservation to see what areas your state allows baiting if only certain parts are cleared for this practice.

Mail Pics - Form On Page 38

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Poaching Arrest In Preston County

FARMINGTON, W.Va. – Two Terra Alta men have been charged with illegally killing a trophy buck deer in Preston County, according to Capt. W.A. Persinger of the Law Enforcement Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

Natural Resources Police Officers were alerted to the situation the afternoon of Oct. 22. Sgt. G.A. Johnson, Officer J.A. Rhodes and Officer P.S. Ferguson conducted four hours of surveillance near the scene of the crime, a hunting camp near Terra Alta. That evening, Officer Ferguson and Officer Rhodes watched a pickup truck leave the hunting camp. The officers followed the vehicle into Terra Alta and made a traffic stop. They found that the two men in the truck had a 10- point buck deer in the bed of the vehicle.

Upon further investigation, Sergeant Johnson, Officer Ferguson and Officer Rhodes issued three citations each to Ernest Nice, age 39,



Danny Stump Jr. is headed to the taxidermist with a bear. *Photo courtesy of Willie's Sport Shop in Glenville.*

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and Bryan Sypolt, age 37, both of Terra Alta. The citations were for illegal possession of wildlife, providing false information to a law enforcement officer, and hunting without a license.

The officers confiscated the buck deer, which had an inside antler measurement of 15 1/4 inches, making it large enough to qualify under the enhanced penalties section of the West Virginia hunting regulations regarding the illegal taking of trophy bucks.

Charges are pending in Preston County Circuit Court. If convicted, the suspects will be assessed a minimum of \$1,000 replacement cost under the trophy deer regulations and up to \$2,805 in fines and court costs.



Josh Rhoads and Paul Ferguson - DNR officers, are shown with a poached deer.

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WV Gift Cards

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia State Parks Gift Cards are popular gift options for the holiday season, and this year they come with “Something Extra,” according to State Parks Chief Ken Caplinger. Anyone who purchases a State Parks Gift Card online or by phone in the amount of \$100 or more will automatically receive “Something Extra” in the form of deals and discounts at various state parks through 2012.

“During the holiday season, we anticipate an increase in gift card sales,” Caplinger said. “Gift cards can be used at the state’s parks and forests year-round, but during the holidays, we like to reward gift card purchases with a little extra incentive to visit parks in 2012.”

The “Something Extra” promotion runs from Nov. 1 to Dec. 16, 2011. Carol Stewart handles the majority of phone sales from the State Parks office in South Charleston. “There is no magic word or code to ask for to receive the extras,” Stewart ex-

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plained. “It’s a way to thank people for buying or giving the gift cards and to encourage them to enjoy the parks next year.”

For each gift card purchase of a \$100 value, the buyer receives a set of eight “Something Extra” cards. “A purchase of \$250 would receive two sets, a purchase of \$400 will receive four sets and so on,” Stewart said. A metal West Virginia State Parks zipper pull comes with each order. Extras include:

a one-day outdoor swimming pool pass at one of these state parks: Cacapon, Lost River, North Bend, Pipestem, Tomlinson Run, Twin Falls or Watoga; buy one Island Belle sternwheeler

ride and a second person rides free
continue to the next page



Justin Lovell arrowed his 1st buck-
Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.



Bungy Ellamore nabbed a huge black bear. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods.

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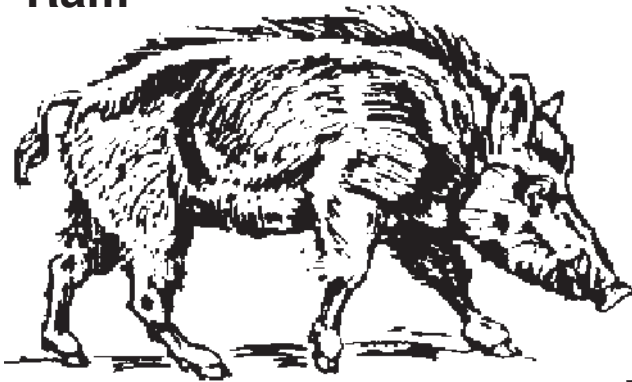
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State park gift cards are available by going online at www.wvstateparks.com and clicking “Gift Card Purchase,” or call 304-558-2764 ext. 51828. Standard ground USPS shipping service is in gift card

Poaching Arrest In Wetzel

FARMINGTON, W.Va. – Two Wetzel County men have been charged with various violations of West Virginia’s wildlife laws in connection with the illegal taking of two trophy buck deer, according to Capt. W.A. Persinger of the Law Enforcement Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

On Oct. 28, 2011, Sgt. C.D Shriener received a citizen complaint from the Eight Mile Ridge area of Wetzel County near the Tyler County line that two individuals had killed two deer in that area and cut the heads off, leaving the remainder of the carcasses at the scene. An investigation led Sgt. Shrine to the location of the carcasses and information that resulted in the recovery of

two trophy eight-point bucks. Further investigation led Sgt. Shriener to a suspect who, after being questioned, confessed to the unlawful taking of these two bucks.

Tylor Hostuttler, age 18, of Jacksonburg, W.Va., was issued various citations for the violations as well as trophy buck replacement fee for both bucks. Codie Leek, age 18, of Pine Grove, W.Va., was also charged in the incidents as an accessory to the crimes. The charges are pending in Wetzel County Circuit Court.

Conviction on deer poaching charges can result in \$200 replacement costs for each deer, plus an additional fine of \$1,000 to \$2,500 for the illegal taking of trophy bucks.



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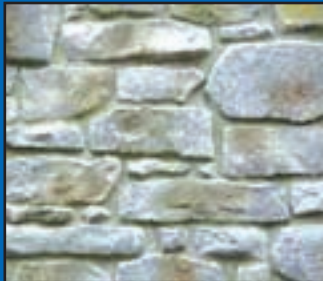
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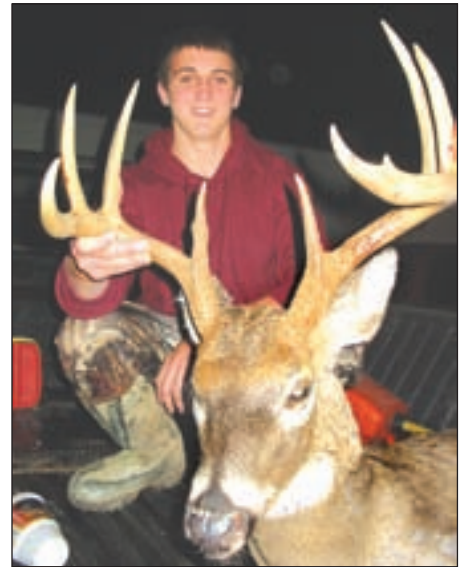
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Ty Gray had a great archery 10 point. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



Bobby Lockhart used an arrow on this quality 10 point. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Stephanie Beverage used a bow for this nice buck Photo courtesy of Cardinal Pawnbrokers in Beckley.

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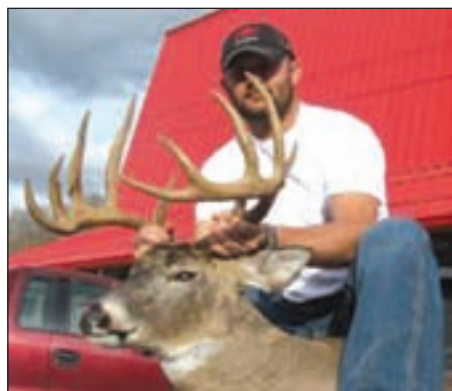
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Kendall Waybright brought in a huge 493 black bear from the Sept. season. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sportig Goods in Elkins.



Gary Sapp & Mark Gardner brought in a 4 pound, 1 oz. smallmouth.



Kip Cottrell bowed a quality 15 point. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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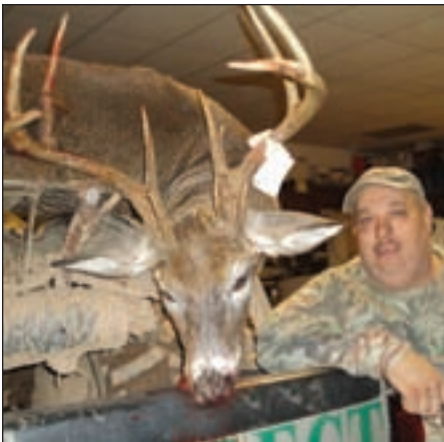
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Russ Dawkins used his bow for this excellent 16 point buck. This deer was taken in Wood County.



Gerald Caltrider used his bow for this 300 plus pound black bear. He lives in the Elizabeth area.

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WV Hunting Facts

The West Virginia firearm buck gun season is Nov. 21 – Dec. 3. It is open in all counties except Logan, Mingo, McDowell and Wyoming. Approximately 330,000 licensed hunters will be in West Virginia's woods during this season.

Hunters should review the 2011 - 2012 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for detailed instructions concerning bag limits and season dates. The regulations are available at license agents, DNR district offices, or online at www.wvdnr.gov.

A list of wildlife checking stations in West Virginia can be found online at www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/check_stations.asp

The firearm antlered deer bag limit during the two-week buck



Dale Cavender used a bow for a nice buck. *Photo courtesy of Outdoor Specialties in Winfield.*

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season is two (one on the base license and one on an RG [resident] or RRG [nonresident] stamp). A hunter may take no more than three antlered deer per calendar year in all archery and firearms seasons combined.

The last day to purchase an additional buck deer gun tag (Class RG/RRG Stamp) is Nov. 20, 2011. Class RG and Class RRG additional buck stamps can only be used to take an additional antlered deer in firearm buck season. Unused Class RG and Class RRG stamps may not be used in antlerless or muzzle-loader seasons.

All private land in counties having a firearms antlerless deer gun season (Class N for residents and Class NN for nonresidents) will be open Nov. 21 – Dec. 10 and Dec. 28 – 31. All public lands having an antlerless deer season will be open Nov. 23 – Dec. 10 and Dec. 28 – 31. Bag limits vary among coun-

continue to the next page



Mark Cade took his bow to Doddridge Co. for this 9 point.

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ties and will be one, two or four antlerless deer. Only one deer may be taken per day, except that two antlerless deer may be taken on the same day during Dec. 5-10, 2011, on private land only, provided the first deer is legally checked prior to hunting a second deer.

All deer must be field tagged and checked in within 72 hours of the time of kill or within 24 hours of the close of the season, whichever comes first. Additional deer may not be taken until all previously taken deer have been checked. Only one deer may be taken per day during the buck season.

Black bear gun season will be open in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Monongalia, Morgan, Nicholas (private land) and Raleigh counties Nov. 21 - Dec. 3 during the buck season and concurrent antlerless deer season. A hunter may bag one bear and one deer on the same day during the concurrent seasons in those counties. In addition, the season bag limit for bears is two, provided that at least one bear must be taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Raleigh, or Wyoming counties. See the 2011-2012 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for details.

continue to the next page

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Howard Lamp used a bow for an 8 point. Photo courtesy of Clark's Taxidermy in Parkersburg.



Kayla Eastham got her 1st archery buck. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.

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The traditional muzzleloader season will be Dec. 12 – 17. Muzzleloader hunting for antlered deer is open in all counties open to buck season. A deer of either sex may be taken with muzzleloaders in all counties open to the antlerless deer season.

Hunters spend an estimated \$285 million in West Virginia, much of it in the rural areas of the state that depend upon the deer seasons for a large portion of their annual income.

In 2010, deer hunters in West Virginia harvested 43,461 bucks during the two-week buck season, a decrease of 31 percent from the 2009 harvest. The 2010 antlerless season deer harvest decreased by 36.5 percent from 2009 for a total of 34,600.

WVDNR forecasts that the buck harvest will be higher for 2011. All regions should see a higher total harvest this year. The lower harvest and abundant mast conditions in 2010 should mean that there are plenty of mature, larger-racked bucks available in 2011.

Sunday hunting is legal in the following 14 counties on private land only: Boone, Brooke, Clay, Hancock, Jefferson, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Marshall, Mingo, Ohio, Wayne, Wetzel and Wyoming. The only Sunday that is open in these counties during the buck season is November 27. Hunters are reminded that deer gun seasons are closed in Logan, Mingo, McDowell and Wyoming counties.

Hunters are required to wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange (about the size of a vest) as an outer garment for visibility and safety. Blaze orange camouflage patterns are legal as long as 400 square inches of blaze orange are displayed on the garment. A blaze orange hat is not required, but the hunter must have blaze orange visible from both the front and the back.

Hunting licenses may be purchased online at any time and printed out on a home computer printer. Go to



Mr. Bennett caught a nice striper at Bluestone Lake *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

Hunting.2011 ~ Page 35

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Randy Conrad, from Ona, went to Florida for a mean looking 40 pound black drum.

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GAME CHECKING



Private Property Poacher

BRIDGEPORT, W.Va. – A 16-year old Bridgeport male has been cited on charges of illegally killing a trophy buck deer while hunting on private property located along Meadowbrook road near Bridgeport, according to West Virginia Division of Natural Resources District 1 Capt. W. A. Persinger.

An investigation began Nov. 4 when Natural Resources Police Sgt. Robert Waybright received information from the owner of a Harrison County taxidermist that a young man had brought in a 10-point buck deer head/neck for mounting. Sgt. Waybright examined the head and recovered a bullet, indicating, based upon the date of the field tag, the buck was allegedly shot with a rifle prior to deer rifle season for buck deer. The field tag and deer check tag identi-

fied the suspected shooter, and Sgt. Waybright and Natural Resources Police Officer Randall Kocsis arranged a meeting with the youth and family soon after.

During the interview, the suspect claimed to have been hunting from a tree stand and to have killed the

continue to the next page



Dalton Fisher used a bow for this Ohio 15 pointer.. *Photo courtesy of Jackson County ATV in Ripley.*



Logan Faw shot a large red squirrel. *Photo courtesy of JBC Archery in Shady Spring.*

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buck with a bow and arrow during the archery season, which began Oct. 1. When confronted with the evidence of the bullet, the youth allegedly admitted to have been participating in Youth Hunting Day, Oct. 29, when he took the buck with his 30/30 rifle from a tree stand. Only antlerless deer may be taken legally with a rifle during Youth Hunting Day. He also allegedly admitted to checking the deer in as a bow kill before taking it to



Chip Groves used a bow for this Wood Co. buck. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.



Keith Lawrence arrowed this wide raked buck. Photo courtesy of Bow-Listic Archery in Chelyan.

the taxidermist for mounting.

The juvenile was cited for the following violations: killing deer during closed season, illegal possession of wildlife, and improper checking of game. Examination of the deer head/neck determined it to be a 10-point with an antler spread

of 15 inches. The replacement fee for a trophy buck of this size is \$1,000. The case is pending in Harrison County Magistrate Court, where he may face additional fines and court costs.

All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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O	K	T	R	E	E	C	N	R	I	T	C	B	W	T	J	A	L	E	H
B	L	F	O	A	Y	O	K	C	T	W	B	D	U	A	N	M	L	K	R
B	I	S	A	M	A	N	D	A	O	A	E	O	Y	L	H	G	F	I	A
L	N	N	T	L	A	T	Y	M	N	B	M	H	X	S	F	O	F	R	G
E	E	K	N	E	C	E	N	M	A	L	I	C	C	K	N	B	E	T	M
R	H	L	L	O	N	S	B	O	W	M	R	O	I	O	A	U	D	S	B
Y	R	L	S	W	T	T	N	S	S	A	P	I	R	D	C	L	U	R	I
O	A	G	P	N	A	R	L	L	F	E	E	F	G	E	Z	D	E	T	R
C	R	A	N	U	G	T	O	H	S	I	H	A	N	I	G	A	B	T	D
A	E	C	E	N	O	I	T	I	N	U	M	M	A	E	F	D	E	E	O
N	K	R	Y	F	E	A	T	H	E	R	N	B	L	K	E	K	E	R	D
U	O	A	M	E	O	N	L	L	N	I	V	A	R	C	S	E	K	K	T
G	M	F	L	F	E	L	E	N	D	D	W	E	A	D	T	S	A	N	N
M	S	F	B	E	A	K	W	P	K	G	U	R	O	L	H	O	U	L	U
T	I	D	R	A	Z	Z	U	T	R	E	E	O	S	B	E	O	T	U	H
R	L	G	N	I	P	U	R	R	E	W	W	N	G	A	M	G	Y	V	C

WORD SEARCH

Ridge • Striker • Oak • Tree • Contest • Shotgun • Beak • Feather

Mount • Green • Hunt • Woods • Purr • Slate • Spur • Rifle

Gun • Wing • Call • Gobbler • Hen • Kee • Tom • Edge • Scout

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GAS
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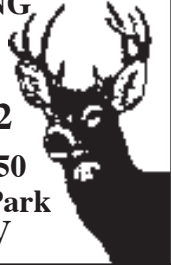
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Fish _____ Pound _____ Oz _____

Animal _____ Gun _____ Bow _____ Pts. _____

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NOV. 16 9 to 6

NOV. 17 9 to 6

NOV. 18 9 to 6

NOV. 19 9 to 3

NOV. 22 9 to 6

NOV. 23 9 to 6

CLOSED
Thanksgiving

NOV. 25 9 to 6

NOV. 26 9 to 3

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