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**Issue 284**

**March/April 2020**



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**SPRING  
Turkey**

**B.A.S.S.  
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## Magazine

**Volume 1 Issue 284**

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**Mark A. Goudy**

Contributing Editors  
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Natural Resources

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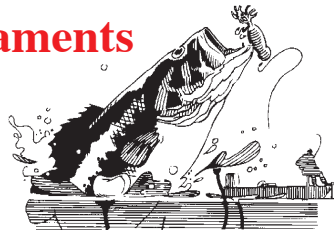
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## Cover Photo

An impressive 51", 49 pound musky was caught and released by Luke King. He was fishing at a lake in central WV. Guess we'll have to guess which one.

Go online to see this magazine on the web every 6 weeks. It is [www.wvasportsman.net](http://www.wvasportsman.net)

We are looking for large deer, bear and other game animal pics for future issues. Send your pics from this season. Look on page 38 for information.

Good luck to all health wise!

# Hunter Education Classes

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — When it comes to participating in West Virginia's many hunting seasons, there's a lot to remember. But new hunters don't have to learn everything on their own, thanks to hunter education classes provided by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

The class is open to anyone who wants to learn more about hunting, but hunters must complete the course and be certified in hunter education before they can purchase a base license. This requirement applies to everyone born after Jan. 1, 1975.

The two day, 10-hour course is taught by DNR law enforcement

officers. The class is free and covers firearm safety, hunting ethics, first aid and conservation. A portion of the class can be completed online for \$25, but hunters still have to register for a written exam that must be completed in person.

To sign up for the class visit [www.register-ed.com/programs/westvirginia](http://www.register-ed.com/programs/westvirginia).

## Media Assets

To assist media outlets with covering this story, DNR is providing the following assets:

Audio

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Clarence Kimble landed a beautiful golden trout. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

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## Christmas Trees Used For Fish Habitat

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Fisheries biologists for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources are using old Christmas trees to improve habitat at popular fishing locations around the state.

"Most of our reservoirs are lacking in complex, woody cover, so any type of structure we can make with the Christmas trees we collect or other types of brush are really beneficial," said Aaron Yeager, an assistant fisheries biologist.

The woody cover created by the Christmas trees gives small, young fish an opportunity to grow, which increases the overall fish population. The trees also provide ambush spots for larger fish and serve as attractors experienced anglers can use to their advantage.

Following the Christmas season, DNR staff collect real, full-size

Christmas trees and place them in lakes around the state. The program has environmental benefits beyond improving fish habitat by finding a new use for trees that

would otherwise end up in a landfill. For more information about habitat restoration and improvement, visit [wvdnr.gov/fishing/hab](http://wvdnr.gov/fishing/hab) continue to the next page



Dustin Dennis used a bow for a great Ritchie County buck.



Rick Harvey used a gun in Upshur County for his buck.



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habitat\_improvement.shtm.

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Social media hashtags: #wvdnr #wvfish

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Maria Ruble, from Williamston, caught several trout. *Photo courtesy of Sure Catch Fish Farm in Elkins.*

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Charles Phillips, from Coalton, brought in a nice 9 point.



Jeff Hughart got this great buck on public land.

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## New State Record Grass Carp

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — A West Virginia angler recently caught a state record grass carp in Hardy County. It's the second record grass carp caught in the last two months.


John Miller of Lost City, W.Va., caught a 54.75-inch, 67.4-pound grass carp on Feb. 18 at Warden Lake, breaking the previous record for length (53.1-inch) recorded by Zach Adkins on Jan. 3, 2020. William Tucker still holds the record for weight with a 71.69-pound grass carp caught at Warden Lake in 2005.

Anglers who believe they may have caught a state record fish should check the current records in the fishing regulations at [wv.dnr.gov](http://wv.dnr.gov). Procedures for reporting a re-

cord catch also are included in the regulations.



John Miller caught a state record grass carp at Warden Lake.



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Young Gage Lesher hunted in Fayette County for a 12 point buck.



Kevin Friend had success with this 8 point buck.



Kaleb Talley brought in a tall racked buck.

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Amy Stalnaker bagged a 9 point in Doddridge County



Carl Gilbert Jr. hunted in Wetzel County for an 8 point.



Brianna Williams got her 1st buck in Upshur County.

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## Archery In The Schools

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Archery in the Schools is growing in popularity in schools across West Virginia and provides students, who may not be interested in traditional team sports, with a fun and inclusive physical education program where they can be active and make friends.

The Archery in the Schools program, organized by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, is present in more than 300 schools across the state and is open to public, private and home school

students in grades 4 through 12.

The program, which meets state and national standards for physical education, requires schools to have a trained instructor and use approved equipment. While there is a competitive element to the program, all schools and students participate on a level playing field. Schools are currently working on qualifying for the state archery tournament, scheduled for March 28 at Marshall University's Chris Cline Athletic Complex in Hun-

continue to the next page




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ington.

For more information about Archery in the Schools and the state tournament, visit [wvdnr.gov/archery/Tournament.shtm](http://wvdnr.gov/archery/Tournament.shtm).

Media Assets

To assist media outlets with covering this story, DNR is providing the following assets:



Jon Stearns reeled in a 6 pound rainbow trout.

Audio

Blog

Photos

Video

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Josh Wayne bagged a nice Braxton County 8 point buck.

purpose of reporting on this story. A complete media package may be downloaded here.

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Andrew Ross landed a 26" rainbow trout. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

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Five year old Finley Goddard harvested his first buck. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.

### Total Deer Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Preliminary counts indicate hunters harvested 99,437 white-tailed deer in West Virginia during the 2019-20 seasons. The harvest was 9 percent below the 2018 harvest of 108,856 deer, and 13 percent below the five-year average of 114,520.

A breakdown of the combined 2019-20 deer seasons reveals 36,472 bucks were harvested during the traditional buck firearm season, 28,336 antlerless deer were killed during all antlerless firearm seasons, 29,508 deer were harvested by bows and crossbows, 4,522

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deer were taken by muzzleloader hunters, and 599 deer were taken with primitive bow and muzzleloader weapons during Mountaineer Heritage season in January 2020.

#### Antlerless Deer Season

The 2019 antlerless deer harvest, which includes those taken during the youth/Class Q/Class XS deer season, was 13 percent less than

continue to the next page



Phillip Cantrell, from Logan, bagged a great 11 point bow buck.

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32,571 in 2018 and 21 percent below the five-year average of 36,082.

“It is important to note that the antlerless harvest is the key component to any deer management strategy, as it controls the future deer population,” said Paul Johansen, chief of the Wildlife Resources Section.

The top 10 counties were: Preston (1,663), Upshur (1,196), Ritchie (1,108), Lewis (1,075), Hampshire (966), Roane (940), Monroe (938), Jackson (907), Barbour (873) and Wood (866).

Hunters are reminded that the DNR will hold 12 public meetings across the state on March 16 and 17 to gather comments on fall 2020 antlerless deer hunting seasons in each of the 51 counties where fire-arms deer hunting is permitted.

Locations for the meetings can be found on page 10 of the West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations found here.

**Muzzleloader Deer Season**  
The 2019 muzzleloader harvest of 4,522 deer, which does not include 570 deer taken with side-lock and flintlock muzzleloaders in the Mountaineer Heritage season, was 7 percent more than the 2018 harvest of 4,234, and 7 percent below the five-year average of



Autumn Yoakum brought in a wide racked buck.



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4,839. The top 10 counties were: Preston (235), Randolph (234), Nicholas (173), Braxton (165), Upshur (150), Jackson (146), Fayette (145), Greenbrier (139), Webster (137) and Lewis (120).

**Archery and Crossbow Deer Season**

The bow and crossbow harvest of 29,508 deer, which does not include 29 recurve and longbow harvested deer in the Mountaineer Heritage season, was 11 percent more than the 2018 harvest of 26,613 and 10 percent above the five-year average.

continue to the next



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age of 26,833.

The proportion of the harvest taken using a crossbow increased and was greater than deer reportedly taken by a bow for the third year. The top 10 counties were: Preston (1,680), Randolph (1,139), Kanawha (998), Raleigh (979), Wyoming (969), Upshur (947), Fayette (897), Mercer (763), Nicholas (743) and Wood (714).



Edward Collins bagged a 9 point buck. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

## Cranking In A Kayak

Keith Combs is one of the best crankbait fishermen of all-time. In recent years, he has also welcomed a new challenge of fishing from a kayak. From boat control to limited tackle to just landing the fish without taking a treble hook in the hand, cranking from a kayak presents several unique challenges. So we sat down with Combs to discuss what he's learned so far.

How do you maintain boat control against the pull of a big crankbait or a fish?

"I've done well cranking from a kayak. But it's a totally different deal. I think I can position my kayak as well as I can position my bass boat, but I just have to stay on top of it. The more you fish out of one, the easier it gets. The first time I got in one, I was very discouraged by how much the wind was blowing it around and the way the fish was pulling me around. Then, over time, you learn how to operate the rudder and back-pedal to play the wind, and then it just kind of becomes second nature — just doing it naturally.

"I fish from an Old Town Predator PDL (pedal drive), which is 13 feet, 2 inches long, and just a heavier boat compared to others on the market. I think that makes some difference when it comes to boat

continue to the next page

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Randy Workman got an 11 point buck in Gilmer. County.

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control. But I've only fished out of a Topwater PDL 120 (12-feet) for two days. That boat is really stable, but it's a little bit flatter where the Predator has a little bite deeper keel. I think that makes a little bit of difference. You do the same thing with the Topwater, you just would have to do a little more of it.

"Say I plan to pull in and crank a little corner. I'd pedal straight towards it and when I get within casting range, say 60 to 80 feet, I'd either kick the rudder sideways so I'd be pulling against the boat, or more times than not I'd just back-pedal two revolutions, which would stop the boat and actually start backing me up just a little bit. That way your cast doesn't move you from your position. And I always carry a buoy marker with me, because it is easy to get turned around. Then if I catch one, I'll throw it out.

"You will have to position your-  
continue to the next page

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Ryder Barnette, from Parkersburg, got his 1st buck - 8 point.



Tom Moore hunted in Harrison County for his 10 point buck.

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Vandalia Ramp

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yourself in a kayak a little bit more often than you might in a bass boat. But nine times out of 10, if you have a good group of fish, you'll catch more of them from a kayak than you would from a bass boat, because they're just not onto you. They don't notice that boat, they just don't."

Do you need an anchor for cranking?

"Probably would be a good idea if you're in a paddle kayak. But with my pedal-drive system, my hands being free are a big deal. I'm positioning the boat with my feet while I'm fishing, and I'm not even thinking about it. It's a whole other world when you get a kayak with a rudder and pedals. It just lets you fight the fish a lot better. You don't need an anchor as much or

anything like that, because you can back-pedal."

When it comes to tackle in a kayak, consolidation is key. What's does your basic wintertime cranking box look like?

"I'm going to have my deep stuff in there like a Tennessee shad 5XD and 6XD, maybe a couple of each. I'll stock up real heavy on my Strike King 1.5 squarebills. I also rely a lot on a lipless crankbait during certain times of year. If I can't find them offshore, then I know I can go to some shallow pockets around stumps or grass and catch them on a lipless.

"My favorite lipless to throw right now is the Strike King 2 Tap in a

continue to page 20

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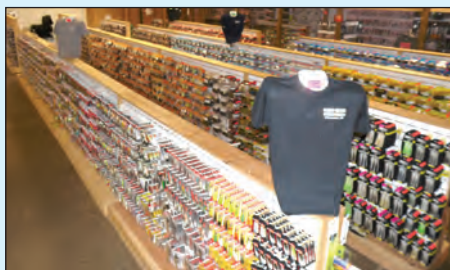
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1/2-ounce. Tennessee shad is probably my number one color to use in the wintertime. I always carry chartrreuse and blue on my 6XD and 5XD. I pretty much use Tennessee shad or crawfish on my squarebills, and then on my lipless, I like crawfish or a gold with black back. Man I feel confident I have everything I need with that box whether I'm fishing Rayburn or if I'm fishing in Florida.

"I have thrown some of the finesse type crankbaits in the winter, and I'm sure it's got a time and place. But I'm not a big fan of flat crankbaits cause they're harder to cast. And I don't fish a lot of really cold water in the wintertime here in Texas. I know a lot of guys who do fish colder lakes in the Tennessee area and places like that where they may have to do things a little bit different. But I've caught a ton of fish on that lipless crankbait and 1.5 in 40- to 45-degree water for sure. So I'd just take those baits and stick with them.

"And because my tackle is so limited in a kayak, a plug knocker is even more important. I always keep a Hound Dog Lure Retriever with me."

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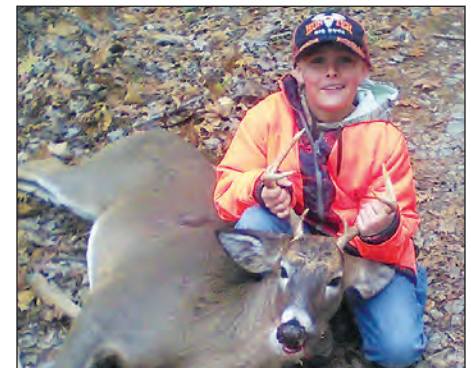


**DEER ATTRACTANTS  
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Rod selection is also much more critical in a kayak. If you were only allowed one rod and reel for cranking from a kayak, what would it be?

"I'm only using one now for all my cranking when I'm in a kayak. It's a 7-foot Curado glass rod (CD-CC70MSG). I can throw everything on that, even a 10XD if I had to. I usually use a 7-foot, 8-inch for

continue to the next page



Jacob Kincaid brought in an 8 point buck.



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a 10XD. But I'm pretty good with a 7-footer across the board, and I use a Shimano Curado 7.4:1 bait-caster with it."

One exciting — albeit terrifying — part of cranking from a kayak is the close proximity you put yourself to treble hooks. How do you approach putting a fish in the boat? "It's a rodeo for sure. I don't use a net, and that wouldn't be a bad idea. I haven't done any tournament fishing from my kayak yet; I'm usually just out there having fun so I don't care if he comes off. I'll just play him when he gets close to the boat. But yeah, it's just a matter of time in a boat or a kayak before you get a hook in you cranking. If I were going to fish a tournament from a kayak, I'd probably use a net."

[www.wvasportsman.net](http://www.wvasportsman.net)

## Pre-Season Turkey Tips

Why is it that big game hunters are fanatical scouters, but many turkey hunters can't seem to find the time? If you hunt a small chunk of private ground, that might be fine. But if you're a ham-and-egg, public-land gobbler getter, you can bet the farm that others are out looking for birds long before the season opens.

Here's a Top 10 list of how to scout smart so you can get a jump on the season.

### 10) Get Permission Early

One of the best ways to do your pre-season scouting is to ask for, and then lock up, permission to access private land early. This also helps gather information from landowners about the turkeys on the property, saving you lots of time. Plus, once you secure permis-

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sion, there's a chance landowners continue to the next page



Tucker Emswiler got a nice fall turkey..

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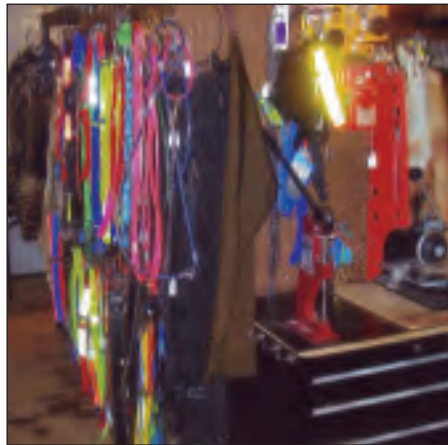
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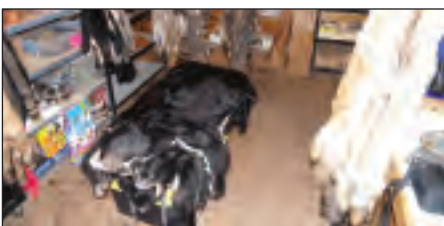


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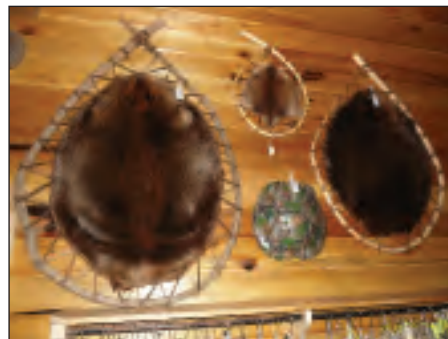
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might turn others down. And even if a landowner turns you down, if you're friendly and polite they might say yes next time. Even better: If there's adjacent public land, knowledge of turkey numbers and habits on private ground can help you plan your public land hunts.

### 9) Practice Calling

One truth: you can be a super deer hunter without ever making a sound, but if you want to consistently kill gobblers you have to be a decent caller. That takes practice. It's never too early to work on your calling skills. I've been driving my wife nuts for a month now as I work some new diaphragm calls while sitting at my desk, and I practice with them while driving around town, too. Way more fun than talk radio.

### 8) Timing is Everything

Scout specifically for opening day, especially if you're a public land hunter. While late-fall and winter observations of turkeys are cool, winter flocks alter feeding patterns as warmer weather sprouts fresh food sources. To nail down where birds will be, serious scouting doesn't need to occur any earlier than two to three weeks before

continue to page 25



Jordan Williams landed a 6 1/4 lb. rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of PC Outdoors in Crab Orchard..

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March/April 2020 ~ Page 23



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opening day. But earlier scouting trips will help you get the lay of the land, and also formulate a plan to hunt areas that are not quite as easy to access as close-to-the-road spots that will be overrun with other hunters opening weekend.

7) Stop and Listen

A great way to scout is to access a high point in an area you want to check out well before first light and again an hour or so before sundown, and just sit and be quiet. Pick a quiet, calm morning or evening and listen for gobbling on the roost, and for turkeys as they fly down from and up to the roost. Use binoculars and spotting scopes to glass for birds in the trees.

6) Ground Check

If turkeys aren't gobbling or vis-



John Miller landed a 5 lb. 13 oz. trout at Bob's Tournament Lake. Photo courtesy of PC Outdoors in Crab Orchard.

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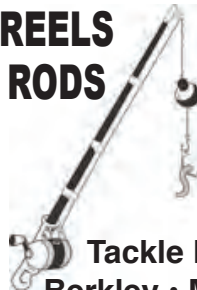


ible, don't despair. Simply search for other clues: tracks, droppings and strut marks can reveal travel, loafing or feeding areas. Droppings and feathers -- especially primary wing feathers -- near suitable trees might reveal roosts. Dusting areas can be gold because turkeys like to visit these frequently during the day. As you find sign, look around for potential set-up spots or ambush sites. One caveat: do your walking during midday hours so you won't inadvertently spook birds as they continue to the next page



Isaac Nayak bagged a nice buck in Pleasants County.

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move close to roosting areas.

## 5) Map Check

Simply finding tracks, feathers, and droppings is just the beginning. Unless they're in a primary roosting area, you shouldn't get overly excited just yet. Now grab your topo map and see if you can figure out where the birds might be heading and the likely route they'll take. Finding travel routes between bedding areas (roost trees) and food sources can be gold. Hey, are we deer hunting?

## 4) Smile for The Camera

Speaking of deer hunting, trail cameras are for much more than big game hunting, you know. Once you find sign or observe turkeys on the move, cameras can pinpoint where turkeys are hanging out and what routes they use for travel. Set them up on fields, along logging



Lee Slusher - 76 - harvested a 9 point buck in Ritchie County.

trails and open hardwood ridges, and around water sources to figure out where flocks lounge and feed during the day.

## 3) Shut The Heck Up

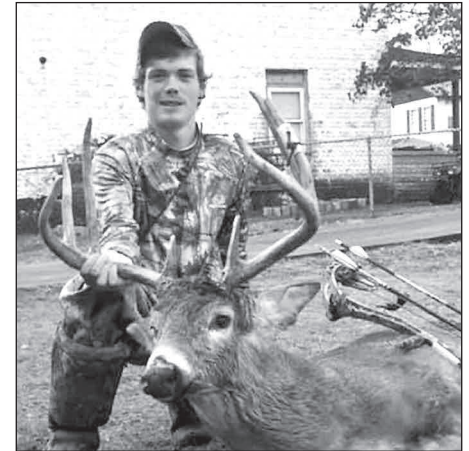
I know, I know. You've worn out those new diaphragms practicing, and you need to see how that Old Faithful box call sounds. Show some restraint when scouting and limit any calling to a locator-type call (crow, coyote, etc.). If you can elicit a shock gobble, cool beans. But don't educate birds now by scarifying them with your yelping.

It's best to be a stealth bomber and disturb your hunting area as little as possible while you scout.

## 2) Keep A Log Book

Keep a list of places where you find turkeys year after year. Make a quick stop there just to be sure the turkeys are still there. It doesn't

continue to page 29



Hayden Adams went to Logan County for a huge buck

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matter whether you hear a gobbler or not, as long as you find scratchings, droppings, tracks or feathers. Even if you only find turkey sign from hens, you're good. If hens are there, gobblers will be too. Once you've verified turkeys are in your trusted spots, head off and scout new places. Because, as we all know, nothing lasts forever. Good places go bad, sooner or later. The more options you have, the better.

1) Plans A, B, C

As opening day approaches, take stock of all the information you've gathered scouting and plot a strategy. Identify the best spots for a fly-down hunt. Note places to intercept birds as they eat or travel. And plot



Seth Pack shot a dandy buck in Fayette County.



Chris Brady went to Randolph County for a ruffed grouse.

out good Plan B and C spots where you can cold-call or walk and call during quiet, late mornings, or set ambushes along field edges or water holes. What will you do if you get to your primary spot opening morning and find another truck parked there? Or the birds don't respond, or get away from you? The better prepared you are the less time you'll waste in unproductive situations.

Regardless, always remember that no matter how well you scout and prepare, turkeys have a nasty habit of throwing you a curveball. No worries, Matey. You have a back-up and the season is long. Enjoy the day, and the season. And be sure to drop me a note at brobb@grandviewmedia.com and share your scouting techniques and turkey-season successes. I'd love to hear from you!

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Tommy Oldaker got a 12 point buck in Randolph County.

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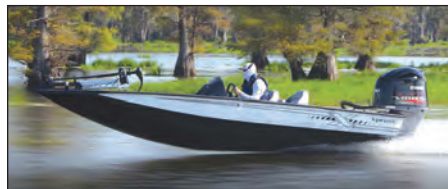
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## Interesting Fishing Facts

1. Fishing is the activity of trying to catch fishes using different automated and traditional techniques.
2. An angler is a person who fishes with a rod and line.
3. One million Americans spend an average of 17 days fishing.

One million Americans spent an average of 17 days fishing.

Source: Media Source

4. Anglers spent a total of \$15.5 billion dollars on fishing in 2011.
5. An average angler spends \$1,261 on fishing each year.
6. Anglers spend almost \$300 million a year just on ice to preserve fishes longer.

Anglers spend almost \$300 million a year just on ice.

Source: Media Source

7. Anglers spend more than \$1 billion a year on bait alone.
8. The fun thing about sports fishing is that mostly, the caught fish is thrown back into the water.
9. Total Fishing expenditures per year is \$42.2 billion.

In 1933, Captain Jay Gould of Hollywood, Florida captured a manta ray that measured 19 feet, 9 inches.

10. More than 44 million Ameri-

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cans enjoy fishing every year.  
11. Techniques for catching fish include hand gathering, spearing,

nesting, angling and trapping.  
12. India is second largest producer  
continue to the next page



John Whipkey brought in a great buck from Monongalia County.



Ballard Gould went to Roane County for his high racked 9 point..

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of fish worldwide.

13. There are 27,000 living species of fish worldwide, out of which 6,000 species are found in Australian waters alone.

14. Fishing with spinning outfits and fly rods are the most popular.

15. The act of fishing can be divided into two categories: Sports fishing and commercial fishing.

The act of fishing can be divided into two categories: Sports fishing and Commercial Fishing.

Source: Media Source

16. Many people pursue fishing as sports.

17. Fly fishing, a method of fishing, was invented around 200 CE.

18. There are 21 million fishermen and almost 200 million people depend on fishing to survive.

There are 21 million fishermen and almost 200 million people depend on fishing for survival.

Source: Media Source

19. China has the world's largest fishing industry.

20. Fly fishing is the most popular style of fishing.

21. The hungrier the fish the easier is to catch.

The hungrier fish is easier to catch.

22. The most common bait fishing rig is a number 8 or 10 hook tied to 4 lb.



Roger Maynard, from Lenore, hooked a huge golden trout.

23. In Fishing, two types of trolling are employed: flatline and down rigger.

24. Unfortunately, many sea birds are also killed during fishing.

Unfortunately, many sea birds are also killed during fishing.

e25. Drift Gill Netting is one of the most destructive methods of fishing.

26. Fishing is most popular outdoor activities in the U.S. from 2009 to  
continue to page 34



Josh Williams, from Cool Ridge, landed a big carp.

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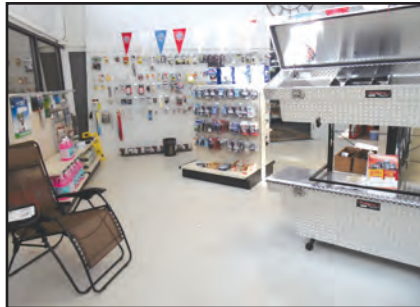
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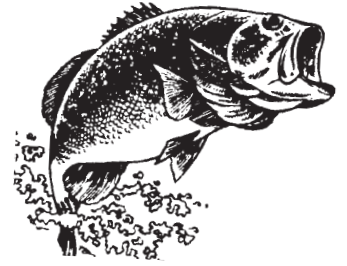
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2016.

27. Trawling is one of the most common methods of commercial fishing in the world.

Trawling is one of the most common methods of commercial fishing in the world.

Source: Media Source

28. Australia has a large commercial fishing fleet.

29. The number of people fishing and practising aquaculture worldwide has doubled since 1970.

30. Asia is the base for the fish industry since 1980s.

Asia, which became the base for the fish industry in the 1980s.

Source: Media Source

31. Around 24,000 people engaged in fishing, fish farming and processing are killed at work every year.

32. The world's fishing industry spends \$124 billion every year to produce \$70 billion worth of fish.

33. The world's biggest consumers of fish is Japan and the United States.

The world's biggest consumers of fish is Japan and the US.

Source: Media Source

34. In line fishing, the fish can be attracted by a natural or artificial bait to catch and hold the fish.

35. China is the leading country in terms of fishing.

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An unusual drop tine buck featured parts of dried velvet,

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**Interesting Turkey Facts**

Every Thanksgiving, many Americans gather around the table for casseroles, cranberries and, of course, turkey. Given that it's a fixture in such a widely celebrated holiday, you'd think we'd know a lot about this bird. What we do know is clear: A turkey gobbles, it's definitely delicious, and kids can easily draw one by tracing their hand. But do we know if all turkeys gobble? What about how turkeys came to be called turkeys? And can these birds really fly? Read on for the answers to these questions and more.

1. The turkey is almost certainly named for Turkey. There are at least two potential theories for how the turkey got its name, and both involve the country Turkey and a nasty habit of the British people of that era. The first theory suggests that since the birds were originally sold by merchants by way of

Constantinople (now Istanbul), the British referred to it as "Turkey coq" even though the bird is actually native to North America and Mexico. At the time, the British referred to just about anything that originated from the East as coming from Turkey, including Turkish rugs (Persian rugs), Turkey flour (Indian flour) and Turkey bags (carpet bags from Hungary).

The second theory is that Europeans already enjoyed eating guineafowl, a bird from Africa that looks sorta-kinda like a wild turkey. Guineafowl were also sold by Turkish merchants. So when Europeans began colonizing America and ran into this native wild turkey, they may have decided to use the name they thought best matched the bird's appearance.

Either way, this American bird got its name due to associations with other spots on the globe, and that trend continued with its nam-

ing in other countries. In Russia and Poland, the turkey's name translates to "bird of India," while Arabian countries call it "Indian rooster." So what do they call a turkey in Turkey then? "Hindi," as a shorthand for India.

continue to the next page



Talk about a wide spread. This buck grew a crazy rack.

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2. Benjamin Franklin didn't actually suggest the turkey be crowned the national bird of the U.S. This bit of turkey-trivia is one that gets passed around a lot, but it's mostly a misunderstanding of a letter Franklin wrote to his daughter in 1784. The issue wasn't so much that Franklin thought the turkey should be the national bird, but just it would be a better choice than the bald eagle. The eagle, Franklin contended, was a "bird of bad moral character" due to its nature as a scavenger. The turkey, Franklin felt, was a more suitable symbol for the U.S. for two reasons. The first was that Franklin liked that it was

a bird found only in the Americas, and Franklin considered the turkey "a bird of courage" that "would not hesitate to attack a grenadier of the British guards who should presume to invade his farm yard with a red coat on."

A white domestic turkey on a farm Domestic turkeys have been bred to have white feathers. (Photo: Bearok/Shutterstock)

3. Turkeys can be pretty aggres-

sive, especially during mating season. Of course, the reason why a turkey wouldn't think twice about attacking a red coat is because male turkeys work very hard to impress females. So attacking a much bigger animal — say, a human being — would probably woo the hen of their dreams. Turkeys have attacked cars, mail carriers and even their own reflections.

4. Wild and domestic turkeys are the same species. Despite having  
 continue to the next page



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Nathaniel Mayor, from Morgantown, got a great buck.

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different names, domestic and wild turkeys are still the species, *Meleagris gallopavo*. This is because, genetically speaking, the birds are basically the same. The similarities pretty much end there, however. According to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Native Americans, the Mayans and the Aztec had more or less domesticated the bird by the time Europeans showed up. One of the key differences between the two turkeys today is that domestic turkeys have been bred to have white feathers whereas wild turkeys need darker feathers for better camouflage in the wild.



Stephen Collins has a 165 class bow buck from McDowell County.



Justin Martin bagged a bow buck in Monroe County.



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Brenda Davis went to Jackson County to get a great 8 point buck.

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PARKERSBURG  
304-424-5122  
800-478-5884**

\* Customer Bonus Cash provided by manufacturer. Not all customers will qualify for special financing rate. 0% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$16.67 for every \$1,000 financed. 1.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$17.48 for each \$1,000 financed. Plus tax & fees and dealer doc fee \$187.25. Whereas every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy, dealer not responsible for errors. 0.9% for 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 per thousand financed Expires 3-31, 2020.