



FREE

Issue 295

October/November 2021

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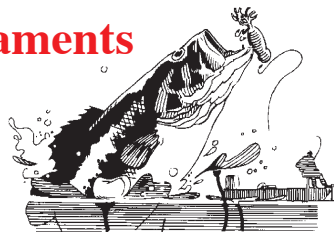
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Cover Photo

A new length blue catfish was caught by Justin Goode from Chesire, Ohio. He was fishing at the R.C. Byrd dam tail waters on Sept. 10 when he landed the 50.15 inch blue catfish. This massive Ohio River blue catfish broke the length record set by Justin Conner in 2020 - 49.84 inches.

Blue catfish were nearly extinct in WV due to pollution. As the waters in the state cleared up, these fish are making a dramatic comeback.

30 Archery Facts

Today when we think of armed combat or event hunting or perhaps sport, we think of guns. There's no denying of the fact that guns are extremely powerful and highly efficient but before the guns were discovered, people used to depend on bows and arrows. In fact, warfare was taken to a whole new level by the invention of archery. Today, though not very widely popular, archery is still practiced by many and is mostly restricted to sports and hunting unless of course we start considering the famous TV show 'Arrow'. Archery is today considered an exotic sport but in right hands, a bow and arrows can be deadly. Let us learn 30 interesting archery facts and in the process, gather some interesting information about this almost lost art.

1. It is today widely believed that archery was invented during transition from Upper Paleolithic (aka the Late Stone Age) to Mesolithic period, which is some 10,000 years ago.
2. The oldest known archery artifacts discovered in Europe belong to late Paleolithic, which is between 11,000 and 9,000 years before present. The artifacts were found in Stellmoor in Ahrensburg valley that lies to the north of Germany's Hamburg.
3. Denmark's Holmegård swamp was the place where two oldest known bows were found in 1940. The bows dated back to 8,000 years before present. They were elm-

continue to the next page

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Kasey White, from Spencer, reeled in a huge largemouth bass.



David Price caught a 22 1/2" rainbow trout.



Adam Miller hooked a huge smallmouth bass.

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made with flat arms and D-shaped midsection. The bows have biconvex midsection.

4. These Holmegård bows (as they are now referred to as) were extensively used until the transition into Bronze Age but the convexity of the midsections of these bows continued to decrease gradually.

5. The Egyptian culture started using archery way before it actually became a dynasty.

6. Archery penetrated into the Americas by 6,000 BCE and once

horses were introduced into Americas, archery on horseback was picked up by the tribesmen.

7. The oldest known Neolithic bow that was discovered in Europe be-

longs to the period 7,400 – 7,200 years before present. The intact bow was dug out from anaerobic layers. Made of yew wood, this

continue to the next page



Adam McGhee hooked a huge largemouth bass.



Johnny Richards and Gary Ross won a recent Stonewall Jackson bass tournament with a six fish limit weighing 24 lbs., 6 ounces. Their biggest bass weighed (caught by Johnny) was an impressive 6 lbs, 4 ounces.

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specimen was only 1.08 meters long with a D-shaped cross-section.

8. Experts believe that archery was used for interpersonal violence during Neolithic and early Bronze Age Europe. This claim is based on arrow heads, representations, injuries and Neolithic fortifications discovered throughout Europe.

9. Ancients civilizations like that of Japanese, Chinese, Koreans, Indians, Parthians and Persians heavily depended on archery in warfare. In fact, a large number of archers were used by all these civilizations in their armies.

10. Use of archery in warfare often turned out to be decisive, especially because arrows turned out to be extremely destructive against massed formations among rival armies.

11. Mongols, Cimmerians and other equestrian nomads heavily depended on mounted archers. In fact, mounted archers were actually their primary military force.

12. Babylonians and Assyrians from Middle East also extensive-
 continue to page 8

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Dave Riddle, from Weston, arrowed an early buck.



Kyle Clevenger, from Buckhannon, hooked a nice brown trout.

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ly used archery. The Kassites from Middle East relied on chariot warriors who were in turn heavily dependent on bows and arrows.

13. As far as Romans are concerned, archery was not that important in early Rome but as the empire grew,

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the importance of archery was felt. By 4th century, the Roman armies relied heavily on composite bows.

14. Turning to Chinese culture, archery played a pivotal role in China for millennia. The Zhou dynasty in particular that lasted from 1146 BCE to 256 BCE considered archery as one of the Six Noble Arts. The diversity of Chinese archery techniques and equipment is a result of diversity of the Chinese culture.

15. In ancient India, archery was very important. In fact, bow and arrow were classical weapons of Indian warfare, dating as far back as the Vedic period. Some of the legendary figures of archery were Dronacharya, Arjuna, Karna, Eklavya, Rama and others.

16. The rise of firearms led to the decline of celebrated bows and arrows. Every culture that managed to get access to early firearms ditched archery despite the fact that fire rate of the firearms were vastly inferior.

17. The primary reason why people started using firearms was their high penetration and longer kill range. Firearms also didn't require much training.

18. By mid-17th century, archery was complete wiped out and replaced by firearms. However, in China and Korea, archery was a part of military examination till 1904 and 1894 respectively.

19. Archery was however revived between late 18th century and mid-19th century by the British in form of recreational activity, especially for the upper class.

20. Archery became a modern sport by mid-19th century but by the end of 19th century, the rise of alternative sports like tennis and croquet helped to reduce the rising popularity of archery in Britain. In

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1900 however, despite the number of archery clubs in Britain being reduced to 50, archery was included in 1900 Paris Olympic.

continue to page 10



Ed Dallison, from Smithfield, used a bow for a fine whitetail buck.



Noah Cunningham reeled in a rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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21. In 20th century, the primitive archery of United States was revived. China saw the revival of archery in 21st century with craftsmen reviving the art of constructing bows and arrows and practicing traditional Chinese style archery.

22. In Kingdom of Bhutan, archery till date remains the national sport.

23. In archery games, splitting the arrow of a competitor is known as Robin Hood.

24. In most of the archery competitions, archers are required to have the initials of their names engraved on their arrows.

25. The ceremonial and traditional Japanese archery is known as Kyudo.

26. In 1900 Olympics, live pigeons were used as targets for archery.

27. The term 'archery' comes from the Latin word 'arcus' which means 'bows and arrows'.

28. There are three different types of bows that are used in archery – the Recurve Bow, the Long Bow and the Compound Bow.

29. There are different types of arrows as well. Traditionally arrows were made using wood that utilized feather flights. Today there are other variations that are stronger and more durable. For instance, we have carbon bows and aluminum

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bows.

30. There are different designs available for arrowheads. The type

of arrowheads to be used depends on the type of target to be penetrated.



Matt Brown caught & released a big largemouth bass.



Reed Elder hooked a nice Kanwha River smallmouth bass.

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Gandy Creek Trout

The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources recently surveyed Gandy Creek to assess trout numbers in one of the state's most popular fishing streams and biologists for the agency say their findings show there are still plenty of trout to catch in between stockings.

"Gandy Creek might be a small stream, but it's one of the most heavily fished in the state and we believe our findings here will help reassure anglers that they can catch a fish even if they don't get there on a stocking day," said Jim Hedrick, hatchery program manager for the WVDNR.

Gandy Creek, located along County Route 29 in Randolph County, gets stocked with trout once a week between March and May. For the survey, WVDNR fisheries biologists visited the stream a week after a stocking.

"We didn't have to go far to catch a bunch of fish," Hedrick said, adding that his team caught 50 fish in segments along the road.

"Many of our stocked streams, continue to the next page



Jerrod Harmon, from Harrison County, caught and released a nice 5 pound, 15 ounce largemouth.



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Bill Jones landed a huge small-mouth bass at night.



Cody Rhodes, 12, hooked a largemouth bass in a farm pond.



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like Gandy Creek, are easy for anglers to access, they just need to get out near the water, spend some time near a pool and make a real effort to catch a fish.”

Hedrick said there are misconceptions that stocked streams are fished out in between stockings and that anglers should be more patient and try different baits if they can't get anything to bite.

“It can be frustrating to some anglers, but one of the best things about trout fishing is that you sometimes have to slow down and wait,” Hedrick said. “If you're determined, there's no reason you won't be able to catch a fish. Just keep trying.”

While spring trout stockings have concluded, there are still summer fishing opportunities around West Virginia. Free Fishing Days are June 12-13, during which anglers

can fish without purchasing a fishing license or trout stamp. For all other times, anglers 15 and older must have a valid fishing license to fish in West Virginia. Fishing licenses may be purchased online at WVfish.com.



Kyle Estep landed a 4 lb., 3 oz. largemouth at the Kings of the Lakes helping his team to win.

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Oct/Nov 2021 ~ Page 13



Archery Range With Raised Stand



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Guided Elk Tours

Wildlife enthusiasts and outdoor lovers who want a chance to see the Mountain State's growing elk herd up close and in a natural setting can now book a seat on a guided elk viewing tour organized by West Virginia State Parks.

Recently, the state parks system announced the return of the popular event and an exclusive 10 percent discount on lodge rooms and cabins at Chief Logan Lodge for people who book a tour. Elk viewing tours, which are scheduled this September and October, will start and end at Chief Logan Lodge. Each tour is limited to 12 people. Tickets cost \$30 and can be purchased online at WVstateparks.com.

"Our elk viewing tours offer an incredible opportunity to see these majestic animals and learn about the history of elk management in West Virginia," said West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Director Stephen McDaniel. "There aren't many places where you can get this kind of experience, so folks should book their trip before seats sell out."

Morning tours start at 5:30 a.m. and evening tours start at 4 p.m. Tour dates are listed below:

While there is no guarantee guests will see or hear elk, tour guide Lauren Cole has prepared a fun and

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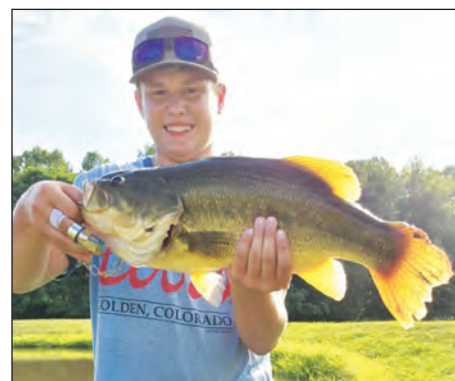
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entertaining program for guests to enjoy. Tours last four hours, depending on wildlife viewing conditions and weather and groups typically walk or hike up to three miles. Tours are limited to guests 12 and older. For more information about the elk tours, contact Cole at lauren.e.cole@wv.gov.

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Sam Miller, from St. Marys, hooked a 7 3/4 pound largemouth.

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Wild Yards Program

In an effort to create more natural habitat for wildlife around the state, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources is encouraging landowners to join its Wild Yards program.

The program, which has 300 members around the state, recognizes the efforts of landowners who landscape for wildlife use.

“We want to encourage private citizens, whether they have a little bit of property or own a lot of land, to help wildlife thrive by providing them with food, water, shelter and space,” said Jim Fregonara, a WVDNR wildlife biologist.

Joining the Wild Yards program is easy. Fregonara says landowners who apply and provide a habitat plan and demonstrate that their property meets the needs of native wildlife will be certified and added to a state-wide register of wild yards. Successful applicants also receive a certificate designating them as a participant in the program and a sign post to display in their yard.

“It’s such a wonderful program to get involved in,” said Rebecca Linger, who owns a certified wild yard. “And you get the added benefit of creating an environment around your house where you can



Patrick Oldaker brought in a fat brown trout.





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enjoy seeing wildlife coming and going. It really is delightful.”

To request a Wild Yards informa-

tion packet and application, contact the WVDNR Wildlife Diversity Program at 304-637-0245.



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Preparing For Hunting Season

If you've spent the last few weeks anxiously waiting for the fall hunting seasons to start, your patience is about to be rewarded because West Virginia's archery/crossbow seasons for deer, bear and wild boar open on Saturday, Sept. 25.

If this is your first year hunting or if you need a little help getting ready, there's still time to gather up your gear, set up your tree stand and plan your hunting adventure. Check out our pre-season checklist below to make sure you're ready on opening day.

1. PURCHASE YOUR LICENSE AND STAMPS

If you want to hunt during the archery/crossbow seasons, you need a valid 2021 West Virginia hunting license. Many hunters opt to purchase a lifetime license or renew their license at the start of the year. If you still need to get your license, get one today at WVhunt.com. And don't forget to purchase your RB/RRB stamps before the start of the season if you want to take additional deer. Bear hunters will need to purchase a DS stamp.

2. REVIEW HUNTING REGULATIONS

Make sure you're familiar with West Virginia's hunting regulations for the archery/crossbow seasons, including bag limits and special rules for harvesting antlered and

antlerless deer. If you don't have a copy, click here to download one.

3. INSPECT YOUR EQUIPMENT

The best hunt is a safe hunt and you need to check your gear regularly to make sure everything is in proper working order. Look over your tree stand, safety harness and any other piece of gear you use during the season. And make sure your weapon is in proper working order and safe to fire by taking your bow out for a practice session.

4. PLAN A HUNTING TRIP

Whether you hunt on your own property or on public land, you'll want to plan a trip and scout the location. If you plan to hunt on public land, use our online map to find a location near you. The map is a powerful tool that provides details about the landscape, amenities and nearby hunting opportunities.

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The archery/crossbow seasons are only the start of West Virginia's incredible big game hunting opportunities. The fall turkey season opens Oct. 9, the split seasons for antlerless deer open Oct. 21 and the buck firearms season opens Nov. 22. Buy your license and stamps and start planning your hunting adventures today.

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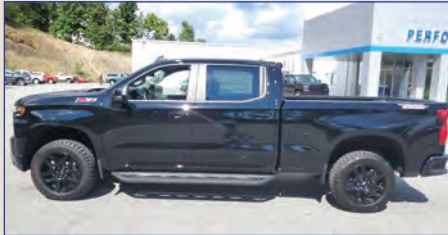
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Crossbow Hunting Information

Buy the Right Tools for the Job
Bow hunting isn't easy, so make sure that you buy the right tools that'll enhance your crossbow hunting experience. These tools can be simple to get, and they will save you on expensive crossbow repairs and replacements.

Wax: You'll need this for the maintenance of your cables, active

draw unit, and cord. You should wax these components at the beginning of a hunting season or every 75 to 100 shots.

Oil: A crossbow, needs lubrication. The areas that need lubrication are the trigger box, flight rails, the riser, the trigger latch, and each bolt that is exposed to weather.

Battery: Effective optics draw

power, so from time to time you'll need to replace a battery. You'll need a 2032 watch battery for your scope.

Restringing tool: You should restring your crossbow every three to four years and a restringing tool will make this process easier.

Here's a great video that'll walk you through crossbow maintenance.

Get the Right Cocking Gear
While you can manually cock your crossbow, it's much easier to grab some type of cocking gear. Since a 150 pound crossbow is going to take some effort to cock, here are some cocking options:

Rope Cocking: This method uses a simple pulley system to make the cocking of your bow easier to manage. With this method you will be required to pull the bow string nearly twice as far, but the amount of weight you need to cock will be cut in half.

Crank Cocking: This method is designed to crank the bow string into place rather than requiring

continue to page 20

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Donald Gant has gone through a heart transplant and dialysis and still enjoys deer hunting. This Wirt Co. native brought in a 19 point that scores around 176. Way to go!



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brute strength. This is the easiest way to cock a crossbow; turning the cranks will often require ten pounds of force only.

Invest in Quality Optics

Any optical system can be used on a crossbow, but it really is best to invest in a quality optical system that is specifically designed for this type of shooting. Dedicated crossbow scopes have sighting systems that account for the way a crossbow is fired.

A three dot reticle will work on most crossbows; for higher speed bows, get a scope that uses crosshair reticles. Remember, without a decent scope, you won't hit your target in the right areas.

Invest in Quality Arrows and Broadheads

Quality, as they say, is job one and purchasing low fidelity components will deliver you a truly unsatisfying hunting experience. When hunting, you'll need arrows that fly at precise trajectories.

Any bolts that are poorly made, will wobble, curve, and generally miss any target that you are shooting at.

Broadheads are the leading edge of your bolts, so a sharper broad-

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head with the most aerodynamic design will do the most good for your targeting. Once again, don't go cheap, and you'll find that you will do more than adequately while hunting.

Think About Using A Range Finder

With crossbow hunting, range is important, so you'll want to have an accurate a reading on range while hunting. Fortunately, there

continue to the next page



Young Branson Stout used a crossbow for this quality buck.



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are many modern options for this, with the most accurate being a laser rangefinder.

All range finders will instantly tell you the precise distance between you and your target. Some hi-tech rangefinders will even be able to tell you where exactly to aim when shooting at steep angles.

These might cost you a bit, around \$200 to \$500 dollars, but this is an investment that is worth every penny. You can even find some scopes that have built-in rangefinders.

Practice Makes Perfect

As with anything, you're not going to start out as the world's best crossbow hunter. Executing precise crossbow kills is going to take time and practice, so expect your first trips to not yield much.

With this said, there are some great ways to bone up and become proficient at crossbow hunting that don't involve actually going out on a hunt. As has been the practice for centuries, you can hone your accuracy by target practice.

Let's take a look at some methods.

Building Steady Aim: A single arrow shot never tells the story when you are building aim skills, so it's best to utilize shooting groups when practicing. Shoot three con-



Danny Harper landed the biggest bass at the Stonewall Classic. It weighed 6 lbs., 15 ounces.

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secutive arrows at the bullseye; aiming to hit the target three times in order to build aim steadiness.

Building Trigger Techniques: It's important to learn to aim and fire in very short succession; too long a pause will cause you to miss. When practicing, learn to apply the required five pounds of pressure that's needed to fire as you seek your target.

If you're looking for a good practice regimen, this archery guide will hone your skills with bow or cross-

continue to page the next page



Aiden Crockett, 13, caught a 5 lb., 4 oz. bass at a Stonewall event.



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bow.
Don't Go Light

Currently, there is a trend towards lighter, shorter ranged crossbows, since many feel that these are easier to carry on long trips. Heavy is best when you are selecting a crossbow for hunting.

Heavier bows have a longer range and more powerful shots. Lighter bows aren't really that much lighter than the tried and true models of crossbow.

Keep an Eye on Your Arrow the Entire Time You Practice

Believe it or not, this is a great way to ensure that you are in your best possible shooting form. Eye the shaft for the entire trip from your crossbow to the target.

This will ensure that you'll have an understanding of how the bolt flies and you'll also develop better follow-through and arm positioning.

Make Up Reasons to Shoot More Often

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This might seem trivial, but making up reasons to shoot is one of the best crossbow tips. Other than hitting up the range, place wagers with your hunting buddies while on a hunt.

This way, you'll have a reason to be as accurate as possible.

Refine Your Form

In any type of bow hunting, form is incredibly important. With crossbows hunting form can make the difference between hitting a 20 point buck in the heart and hitting the tree that it was standing in front

continue to the next page



Jesse Truman, from Clay, used a bow for this outstanding 18 point.

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of seconds before.

Form is all about discipline, and honing this discipline will take you hours of practice outside of your hunts. Stay in shooting stance without firing for more than a few minutes, so that you will be able to return to it without much thought.

You'll be surprised at how much this simple practice will improve your accuracy.

Don't be Afraid to Shoot Further

A crossbow can accurately hit a target that's more than 1000 feet away, but many crossbowmen like to shoot closer. Aiming for targets at longer ranges will allow you to iron out the kinks of your shooting form.

Hitting targets at a far distance forces you to manage your shots better. If you can accurately hit a target that's 300 yards away, a target lurking at a 30 yards will be easy.

Check Your Bolts

For the greatest level of accuracy, ensure that your bolts are straight before a hunt. Many hunters use machines to test this, but if this is unavailable to you, a flat surface like a table will do in a pinch.

Simply place your bolts on the flat surface and roll them with your hand. If there is any wobble, then

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you'll need to replace the bolt as it won't fly straight during your hunt.



Phil Abell, from Elkins, went to Ohio for this 22 point buck. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



The Balsers brought in the big bass, 5 lb., 6 oz. bass on day one of the Stonewall Classic.

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Beginner Archery

Are you a beginner in archery? Here are some great archery tips to help get your going. If you follow these archery tips and with a lot of practice you will be hitting the bulls eye in no time.

The Anchor Point What Are They?

This provides stability with your stance and assist you with shots. The anchor points will help with the positioning of your hand during your shots. It also helps train your muscles. The 1-3 points on the anchors face that has the drawing hand in place to stabilize the archer's aim before the releasing the arrow. Developing your anchor points will help you develop a routine that will lead to consistency in your shooting. Once you find your point or points and use them each time you will aim consistently.

To find your anchor point raise your bow and straighten out your arm, at the same time draw back your string to your point that you have made your anchor point. This will more than likely be the corner of your mouth or chin. Practice repeatedly so that you hit the same point each time you draw back the string. Start practicing consistent hand-to-face, and string-to-face anchor points.

Corner of The Mouth Anchor Point



RJ Kerwood reeled in a huge drum recently.

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Draw back on the string and pull until you have reached just under the jaw. A plus for this anchor point, it will give you a reference point as to exactly where your hand is under your chin. The string at your nose or possibility does it just reach your lips. Then you know each time where to stop on your draw of the bow.

Under The Jaw Anchor Point

Draw back on the string until you continue to the next page



Cody Huddleston, from Montgomery, arrowed a great buck.

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you have reached just under the jaw. A plus for this anchor point, it will give you a reference point as to exactly where your hand is under your chin. The string at your nose or possibility does it just reach your lips. Then you know each time where to stop on your draw of the bow.

Under The Jaw Anchor Point

Draw back on the string until you reach just under your jaw. This will be harder than the corner of your mouth. This anchor point approach is used by a lot of pros.

Whichever way you find your anchor point do not dry fire your bow. This could ruin your bow.

Proper Archer stance



Chris Curry caught a 20 pound flathead at Kanawha Falls.

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The most import part of your archer stance is your foot position. The most vital thing is to have your feet about shoulder – width apart and have your knees slightly bent. Your knees should be perpendicular to the arrow and have your hips parallel to the arrow once it is

continue to page 29



Arkie Arbogast landed a nice channel catfish. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

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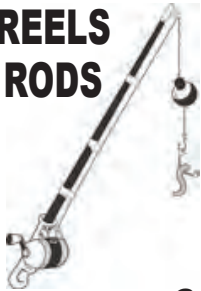
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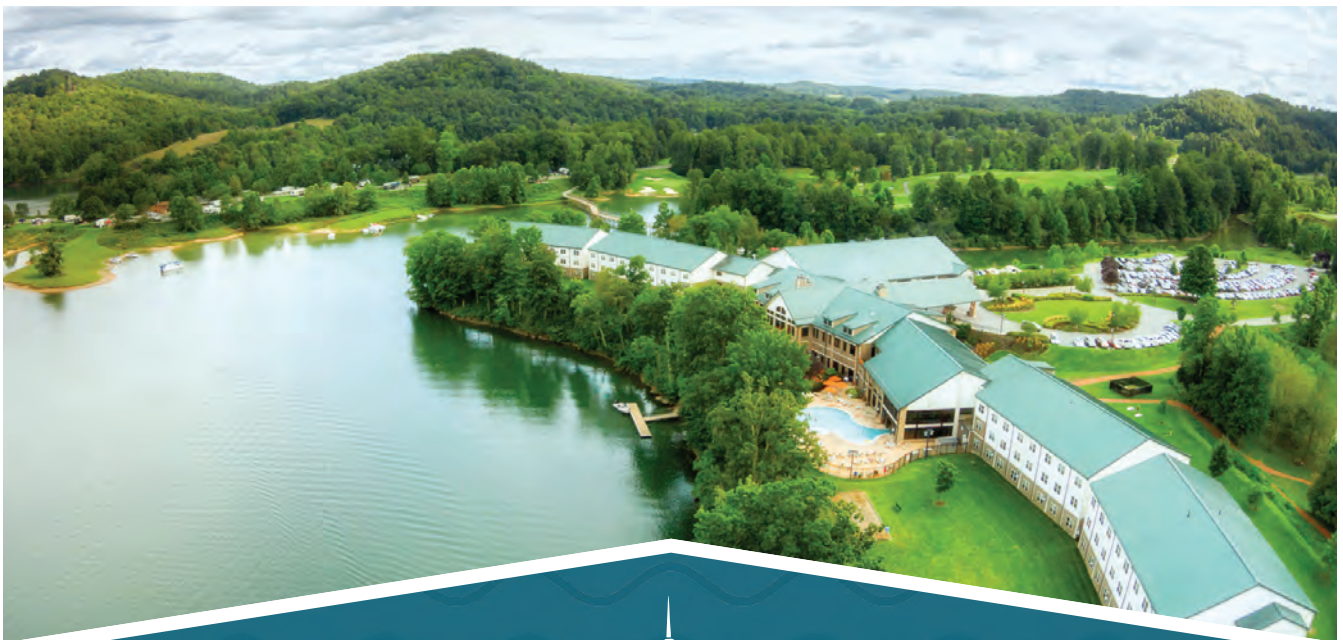


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drawn.

The Open stance

This stance has your feet staggered place the front foot behind your back foot with your hips open to the target.

The Close stance-

Is where you have somewhat staggered feet with the front foot ahead of the back foot and then have your hips closed to the target

The best thing to do try all 3 positions and find the one that feels the most comfortable. Keep up this practice until it feels very natural.

Other areas to be aware of in your stance are:

Head position-Try to keep your head held up straight

Shoulder position- They should fall to a natural position when your elbow and lower arms are in the proper place. The position would be having your front shoulder in a natural position, making sure you don't shrug your shoulder. This could cause you to overextend your shoulder forward.

Elbow and Lower arm Position-Your release arm elbow should point forward towards the target. Place your bow arm point outward and downward while trying to angel it away from the bow.

A Common error is pointing the bow arm elbow downward. This could lead to the bowstring slapping your forearm while your shooting.

4 Common mistakes for New Archers

Elbow rotation- Keeping your elbow rotated outwards so that it is in more a of straight up position. This way avoiding the string hitting your arm.

Finger Position- Don't go to fast placing your fingers on the string. Make sure you have them in the correct position before you release

the string.

Don't follow through- Some newbies don't finish their shot with strength. The way in which a person is aiming is usually too weak for the shot. One of the reasons is because they are focusing too much on aiming and not using their muscles in the correct way. This results in the shot coming out too low and missing the target. Best way to fix this is to practice more and focus. Holding the bow to tightly- Relax your hold otherwise your accuracy will be affected, and thus missing the target.

What to know before you buy:

Select the right size bow that fits your body and strength.

Make sure the draw weight is right for you

Make sure the bow is properly sized

Check the poundage too

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Lance Adamson caught a rainbow trout. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader Version 7.0 or later to view the Sportsman Magazine. If you don't have it, click the image below to



Check out the Aug/Sept 2021 Issue of W.Va. Sportsman Magazine!!

Don't Feed Wildlife

One of the best ways to protect West Virginia's abundant wildlife is keeping it wild. That means we all need to respect habitats, keep a safe distance from wildlife and resist the urge to feed wild animals. As you enjoy the outdoors and cross paths with wildlife, here are a few things regarding feeding wildlife that will help protect you and the animal.

SHOULD I FEED WILDLIFE?

It is illegal to feed wildlife on any public lands including state parks and forests, wildlife management areas, national forests and national wildlife refuges, but it's best to practice caution and leave wildlife alone wherever you're at. Not only is it unsafe, but most wildlife need to eat certain foods and giving them something they don't normally eat can harm them.

Here are a few reasons why you shouldn't feed wildlife:

- It can expose you to diseases.
- It can put you at risk of injury (bites and scratches).
- It can cause wildlife to lose their fear of humans.
- It can attract wildlife to gather unnaturally around a food source.
- It can cause wildlife to become dependent on people for food.

continue to the next page

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It can spread disease among wild-life animals.

You can also inadvertently feed wildlife by littering or leaving pet food outside. To prevent this, don't throw food or trash out the window of your vehicle. Your trash on the side of the road attracts mice, which attracts owls and causes deadly collisions with passing vehicles. You should also bring dog or cat food bowls inside at night and never throw food scraps in your yard.

WHEN IS IT OK TO FEED WILDLIFE?

While there are many reasons not to feed wildlife, there are some instances where it is encouraged and enjoyable. One of the most common ways to feed wildlife is by planting native plants, shrubs and trees or setting up birdfeeders in your yard. This activity is safe and birds don't become dependent on bird feed.

If you set up birdfeeders in your yard, remember to:

Clean and disinfect birdfeeders and birdbaths frequently.

Discard wet, moldy and sprouted bird food.

Clean up discarded bird food



Logan Bassett used a bow for a Wetzell buck. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middelbourne.

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around feeders to prevent attracting mice and other rodents.

Watch for deer, bears and other nuisance wildlife. If your bird-

feeders attract other wildlife, stop feeding birds for a few weeks and the troublemakers should go somewhere else.

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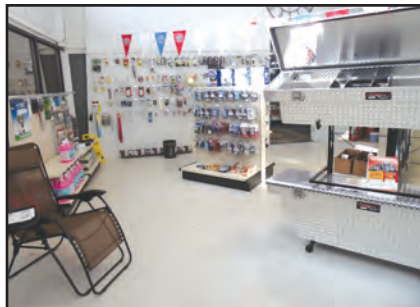
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Fly Fishing

There is something exciting about catching a fish. When you combine beautiful scenery and a connection with nature, a day fly fishing can be both a positive mental and physical experience. These seven tips can help any fly fisher enjoy a day at the water.

Focus On Safety

Be sure to wear proper clothing when fly fishing to stay safe. Waders or full-length pants are the best choice. Closed-toe shoes are also recommended if you're not wearing boots or waders. Long sleeves on top are also recommended. A hat and polarized sunglasses will help protect you from the sun, glare and even flies. Don't forget the bug spray and sunblock, too.

When fly fishing, you will be in and around open water. Keeping an eye on children along swift-mov-



Tom Moore reeled in a large rainbow trout.



Sierra Hall hooked a huge largemouth bass and released it.

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ing water is a top priority. Young children will do better fishing from shore. Older children may fish from the water but should be aware of the currents and other safety hazards. "At a young age, a one-parent-to-one-kid ratio is recommended," said Jim Ciccarelli, fly fishing guide with Shredder Outdoors.

Equipment safety is also important. "Pinch your barbs down in case you hook yourself or someone around you; save everyone and the fish the hassle," recommended Cic-

carelli. Be sure to check your surroundings before casting, so that no one is within your casting zone. "Also, watch for trees and bushes that may get you tangled or stuck," said Ciccarelli.

Pay special attention to the weather forecast, from current weather to the future. Weather can move in quickly, and flooding is a concern, especially when fishing in canyons. Afternoon summer storms are common, especially in the West, bringing heavy rain and lightning. Choose The Right {Simple} Fly And Equipment

When just starting out, there is no need to invest money in a wide range of flies. Have a good selection of flies to "match the hatch," but don't spend a whole tacklebox worth of money on them.

According to Ciccarelli, fly rods
continue to page 36

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come from 0-weight to 12-weight. A 3-weight would be good for little creeks with smaller fish and a 10-weight for tarpon in the ocean. Rods also vary in length from 6 to 14 feet. "If you are younger or smaller, an 8-foot or 8.5-foot 4-weight will be a little more manageable to start with and will still catch bigger trout," recommended Ciccarelli. You also don't need to invest in expensive reels when you are catching trout, salmon or other smaller fish. "Most cheaper reels can do everything you need," he added.

When it comes to the line, make sure the fly line matches the weight of your rod. From experience, Ciccarelli has found not all fly lines are created equal. "You can get cheaper lines, but I don't think they cast as well." Cleaning your fly line after each fishing trip can make the line last longer.

Keep It Short

For those first fly fishing experiences, you want to keep it a short outing. Try to find a location close by. Head out in the morning for

cooler temperatures.

Use others' knowledge and beta to find the best location for a successful trip. "Know before you go," suggested Ciccarelli. "Call a fly shop in the area to ask for a location recommendation and ask them what flies have been successful." Hatch charts for the river can also help tell you what should be hatching for the specific time of year you are fishing.

Watch Fish Behavior

Before casting out, watch out for fish behavior. This may mean looking for fish activity, from rises to bubbles and even flashes underwater. "Sometimes just watching the river and looking for fish without casting can teach you more than going in there blind casting," said Ciccarelli. "Many fish sit in shallow water on the edges of rivers and lakes. Walk slowly and watch; you'll see more fish and get to

continue to the next page



Wayne Likin, from Maysville, hooked a 34" carp.

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Tucker King - 5 years - was happy with his first largemouth bass.

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know where they are lying with a little observation.”

Also, make sure before you let out the line, look for fishy-looking spots. “Deep holes, dropoffs, foam lines, eddies, seams where fast and slow water meet — these are all places fish hang out in,” suggested Ciccarelli. “If you are on the water with no one around, move up or down the river looking for the best water. Try those spots for a while, and if nothing is happening, move on.”



Wayne Worth caught a pretty golden trout.



Mary Saltis reeled in a 7 1/2 pound rainbow trout. *Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton.*

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• Details On Page 3**



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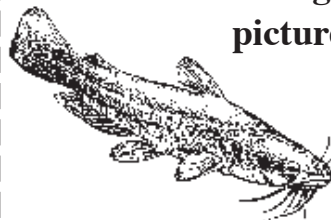
Ritchie Johnson reeled in a huge largemouth bass.

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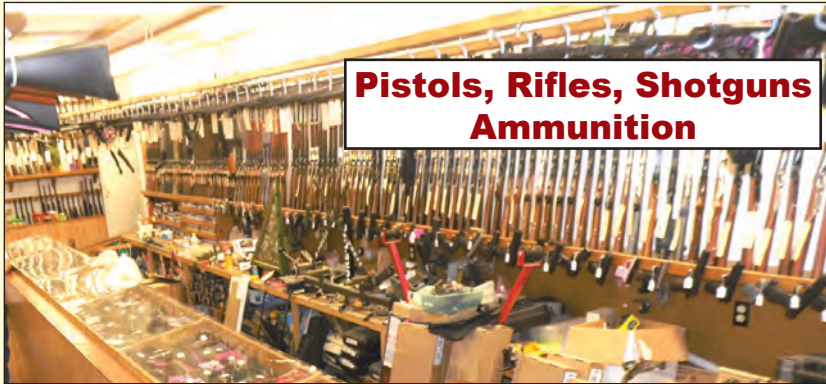
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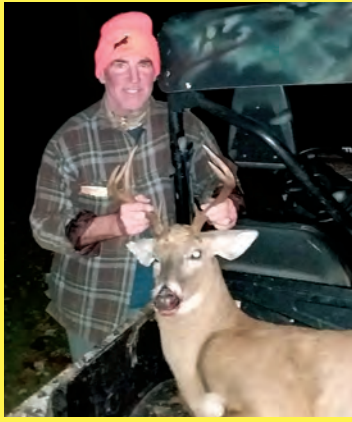


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