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Issue 304

November/December 2022



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Buck**

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Cover Photo

Kathy Stanley, from Ravenswood used a crossbow for this 24 (scorable points) main frame 8 point buck. This Jackson County buck green scored around 180 with a net score of 166 3/8. Other points were on the back of the bucks head.

Lots of women and youth are taking great bucks this season with their crossbows.

Hunt safely during gun season!

7 Deer Hunting Tips

1. Cover Your Scent

The ability to fully cover up your scent is one of the primary determinants of whether your deer hunting sessions will be a success or not.

The deer can sense human smell a mile away – not forgetting that they can also detect the smell you leave on the ground as well as in the air as you walk.

The good news is that you can easily cover up you scent and prevent the deer from detecting you

by using some scent eliminator. Simply spray the bottom of your boots and hunting stand with an odor eliminator.

Bathing with a scent-free soap before every hunting trip also ensures that you don't leave your scent in the air.

One more thing: always ensure that you're downwind to your range to further prevent the game from detecting your smell.

2. Dupe the Deer

If you fall into the category of deer hunters who don't believe in tricking deer with decoys, calls, etc., then you have been missing

continue to the next page



James Eastham used a bow for a buck in Wetzel Co. Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton.



Nick Billeter arrowed a nice 11 point in Tyler Co. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.



Duane Davis brought in a great archery Doddridge Co. buck.

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a lot!

But it's never too late. You can start incorporating different methods of tricking the deer into your range and thus increase your luck in the woods.

Decoys can be an excellent way to fool the deer. Modern models come with lifelike features that enable them to trick the deer easily.

As long your decoy setup is correct, you'll surely get deer visitors to your hunting area.

Other methods of duping the

deer include the use of calls, e.g. the grunt tube and bleat cans and even the rattling of antlers to draw in the deer to your range for a perfect shot!

Take Note: before using the above deer tricks, it's important to

learn how and when to use them to get the most out of them.

3. Be Attractive

You heard that right.

Using deer attractants is another strategy that veteran hunters have been using to maximize their hunting success.

Fortunately, the market has all kinds of deer attractants; ranging from deer feed, deer urine, deer feeders, and so much more. (or you can make your own deer feeder!)

These enable you to attract the deer to your stand for easy take-down.

A great example where the deer attractants have been proven to work is the use of the drag rag soaked in the doe estrus in the

continue to page 7



Jeanne Hughes hunted with a bow in Wood Co. for her 9 point buck.



Anita Robinson got a 12 point archery buck in Jackson County.



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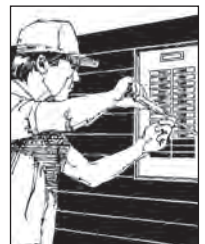
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4. Try Using a Bow

Using a bow to hunt deer?

Using a compound bow or cross-bow has proven to be a great asset when it comes to deer hunting and many hunters swear by it.

But to enjoy the ultimate success when using your bow and arrow in the woods, you need to take care of a few things:

Ensure that you have the ideal bow for you: one that fits your size and strength and that you're comfortable using.

Accuracy matters most: when that magical moment appears (when the buck enters your shooting range), you've got only one chance and your accuracy is all you need to grab the chance. Do everything to ensure you get the buck down with the first shot. Employ accuracy enhancing accessories such as the single pin



Johnny Richards, from Lost Creek, tagged a "biggen".

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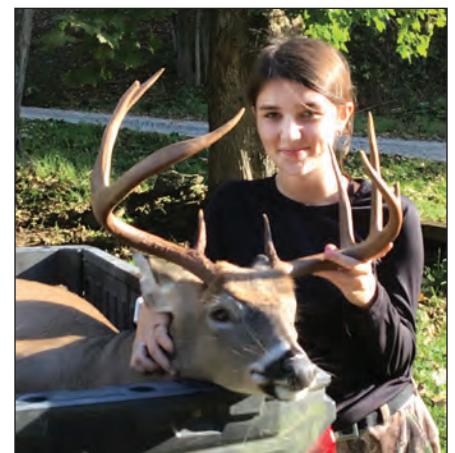
Practice makes perfect: if you wait until the hunting day to use your bow, you'll definitely fail. The surest way to hone your archery skills is by practicing shoot-

ing at different elevations and positions using readily available archery targets.

Use razor-sharp broadheads: most bowhunters recommend this type of arrowhead, quoting its
continue to the next page



Parker Worley hunted in McDowell County with his bow.



Madison Adams used a crossbow in Doddridge Co. for a 9 point.

capability to kill the game more efficiently and even leave a good blood trail.

Know your distance: did you know that most of the missed shots are attributed to wrong yardage estimations? When in your tree stand, try ranging the trees at different distances and use them as landmarks in your head. A rangefinder will also be helpful here.

5. Be Quiet



Tim White got a quality 10 point whitetail in Gilmer County.



Pete Evanovich used a bow for an 8 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton.*

So you believe that after fully covering your human scent you're safe?

You're wrong.


Deer have excellent hearing as well. In fact, they can quickly detect your movements from a quarter mile away on a non-windy day!

And if they hear your movements, they can take around two hours to return.

You can avoid making any noise on the hunting day by setting up your stand 1-2 days before.

You might also want to walk carefully and step with great care to minimize the chances of your sound spooking the buck.

Wearing special sound eliminating hunting boots or boot covers can drastically reduce the noise



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6. Know When to Hunt

Anytime is not the time to hunt deer...

For the most part, deer are active in the early morning as well as near dusk.

This means that the best time to
continue to page 10



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them is early in the morning and in the evening as the sun sets.

For the evening hunts, you ought to set up your stand around the deer feeding area. And for a morning hunt, set up on its route to bedding.

It's good to note that this strategy does not apply at all times.

If you're in the rut season, feel free to hunt at any time of the day – since the buck will show up at any place, anytime. But be sure to remain downwind of the does.

7. Know Where to Hunt

Scouting a hunting area before the hunting season is recommended.

The deer will need to feed, drink, defecate, and mate.

When and where they do all these things is what you should set out to discover so that you can secure an ideal hunting location.

Different times of the year will always put the deer into different home ranges which are easy to identify by looking for various evidence and indicators such as tracks and droppings.

So, these are the top skills, tips, and tricks that you need to incorporate into your deer hunting if you want to make all your hunting sessions a success.

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Millie Raines, from Kenna, got a heavy beamed archery buck.



Josh Murray caught & released a huge musky.

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Wild Boar Seasons

BECKLEY, W.VA. — The first segment of West Virginia’s wild boar firearms season will take place from Oct. 22-29 in Boone, Logan, Raleigh and Wyoming counties.

“Wild boars are dependent on



Camron Stover arrowed a quality Wood County 10 point buck.

hard mast crops and white oak and chestnut oak are the main hard mast crops available in the boar counties this year,” said Colin Carpenter, project leader for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. “Boars will take advantage of these food sources, so hunters would be wise to begin their search for boar signs in stands of white oak.”

Only residents are allowed to hunt wild boars and no special permit is required. Hunters are reminded that if they are hunting in a county open to firearms antlerless deer hunting, they must wear 400 square inches of blaze orange over their outer clothing while the

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antlerless season is open.

The second split of the wild boar firearms season will take place Feb. 3-5, 2023. Details about wild boar hunting seasons can be found on page 43 of the 2022-23 Hunting and Trapping Regulations

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Late Season Bass Fishing

Bass make two very distinct movements in autumn. I detailed the first phase in part one, which is the fall feed. In a nutshell, this is when the bass move shallow and aggressively binge on shad and other schooling baitfish.

By Michael Iaconelli

This column is about the second phase, the fall migration. It typically begins when the water temperature drops somewhere below 60 degrees. The cooling water prompts the bass to start “down-hilling” out of the shallows and begin migrating to their winter holding areas.

They’re leaving the pockets, creeks, shoals and flats, and they’re moving deeper along breaklines and contours. It can be a tough time to catch them because they’re not as aggressive as they were during the fall feed. But when you do find them, they’ll be stacked in bunches.



Elijah Cook got his 1st archery buck in Hampshire County

I use sonar and mapping to track breaklines and topo lines the bass follow during this migration. Today’s electronics are so good they’ve made this task pretty easy. Depending on the particular lake and how far along the migration

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Kendrick Cosner has a rare white squirrel.



Todd Biller brought in a 260 pound bear. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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John Burdette is pleased with his nice 8 point buck.

tion is, the depth change along the break could be as little as a few feet or 10 feet or more.

As the bass slide deeper along these contours, which are like highways, they stop on very specific things. And when they stop, they stop in big groups. They usually park on secondary points first and then main lake points before they reach their wintering spots. Some points are not obvious. The key is that they touch a breakline that drops into deeper water.

Physical cover can also be a stopping spot. An example is a lone dock halfway out of a creek that sits over a breakline. I would regard that as a secondary point.

The bass may pause anywhere along a given breakline. Those

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places are often referred to as the "spot on a spot" or "the juice." It could be a little gravel patch on a mud bottom, a boulder, a stump, even a spring of grass. Whatever the sweet spot is, it will hold 90% of the bass on that breakline.

Baits for the fall migration: The

menu for migrating bass isn't limited to things like shad, herring and alewives, as it was during the fall feed. They continue to eat, but they will take advantage of whatever forage is available wherever they happen to be during their mi-

continue to the next page

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Hunting in Logan Co., BJ Blake harvested an archery buck.

gration. This includes things like panfish and crawfish. I start with power-fishing baits until I find the spot on the spot. Rapala DT6 to DT14 crankbaits are my go-to baits at this time. I also like dragging a 3/4- or 1-ounce Missile Baits Head Banger football-head jig around. I dress it with a Berkeley Powerbait Maxscent Lizard or Creature Hawg. That combo is awesome for covering a lot of water.

Once I find a group of bass, I keep throwing power-fishing baits until they stop biting them. That might be after catching three to 10 bass. When they quit biting those baits I go to finesse offerings. Say



A Wyoming Co. buck was taken by Steve Hatfield.



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I catch seven bass on power-fishing baits and they stop biting. By following up with finesse baits I can maximize the spot and catch maybe three or four more fish. A 3/16- or 1/4-ounce VMC Rugby Head Jig is a staple finesse bait

continue to the next page



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for me in this situation. I usually rig it with a 5- or 7-inch Berkley Powerbait Fatty Bottom Hopper Worm. A drop shot is great too. I rig it with a Maxscent Flat Worm, especially for smallmouth, and a Powerbait Water Bug for all bass species.

My third finesse option is a little 2.8-inch Berkley Powerbait Power Swimmer swimbait on a VMC 3/16- to 5/8-ounce ball head jig.

Just because you caught a bunch of migrating bass from a sweet spot one week doesn't mean they'll be there the next. If they've moved on, keep going down that breakline or to the next point to relocate them again.

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



Jason McCartney reeled in a large golden trout.



Levi Newlon bagged a nice archery deer. *Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton.*



Trudy Noechel landed the big bass in a fall tournament.

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Jasper Johnston used a bow in Wyoming County for his buck.



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Tanner Adkins arrowed a huge Wayne County whitetail.



Ellie Groves, from Canvas, had archery success with a buck.



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Sophie Craven used a bow for a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.



Hunting in Wood Co., Heather Crothers bagged an 8 point buck



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2022 WV Mast Survey Results

ELKINS, W.Va. — Hunters getting ready for the fall hunting seasons may now consult the 2022 Hunting Outlook and Mast Survey, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources announced

recently.

The annual Hunting Outlook and Mast Survey provides details about the abundance of mast (wild fruits and nuts) produced by

continue to page 23



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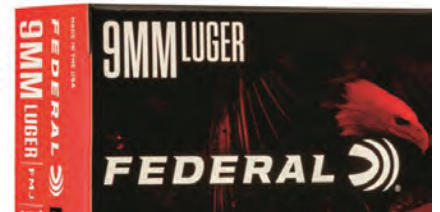
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18 species of trees and shrubs and forecasted impacts to West Virginia's wildlife.

"White and chestnut oak production was up dramatically above last year and also above the long-term average," said Chris Ryan, supervisor of the Game Management Services of WVDNR's Wildlife Resources Section.

"White oak acorns are some of the most preferred wildlife foods in West Virginia and they will have an impact on wildlife movements and hunters' harvests this fall.

Soft mast production was down in 2022 after a tremendous crop in 2021. However, most species were close to their long-term averages. Hunters should do plenty of scouting but will reap the benefits if they can find apple trees that produced a good crop this year. Locating good, natural foods can increase a hunter's odds of success.

Hunters can find a wealth of facts in the Hunting Outlook and Mast Survey, which is a helpful resource to consult before heading into the field. The report, com-

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plied by the Wildlife Resources Section of the WVDNR with the help of volunteers and other agen-


cies, may be downloaded at wvdnr.gov/mast-survey



Levi Clemons used his bow for a nice Harrison Co. Buck. He has the sheds from last year shown.



Jordan McIntyre arrowed a fine Tyler Co. buck. *Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.*



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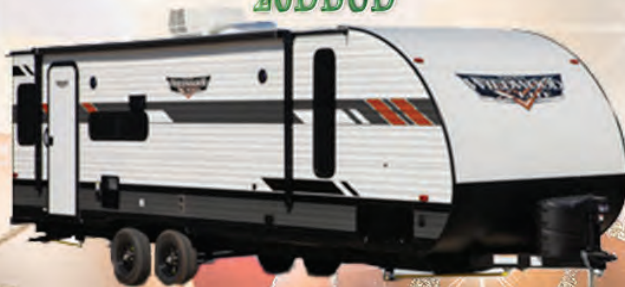
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Monster Trout Stocking In WV

CHARLESTON, WV – Gov. Jim Justice today announced the launch of a new fall Monster Trout stocking program to coincide with West Virginia’s regular fall trout stocking during the weeks of Oct. 17 and Oct. 24, 2022.

The new Monster Trout stocking also includes a contest that rewards anglers who catch a monster trout.

Anglers who hit the water during this special stocking will be greeted with peak fall foliage occurring across West Virginia, producing the best color in more than a decade.

“As a lifelong angler who loves West Virginia with everything that’s in me, I can’t tell you how proud I am of all the ways we’ve



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improved our trout stocking program and how contests like this continue to the next page



Braden Lattes used a crossbow for a nice 8 point in Lewis Co.



Becca Bates got her 1st bow buck in Wetzel County.

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are putting the world on notice that the Mountain State is one of the best places to fish in the world,” said Gov. Justice. “These trout are really something special and this contest is unlike anything we’ve ever done before. I want to encourage everyone to get their fishing license and participate in this incredible opportunity and experience all of the goodness and beauty West Virginia has to offer this fall.”

During the weeks of Oct. 17 and Oct. 24, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources did-stock 40 lakes and streams with 30,000 trout, 2,500 of which will be trophy-size rainbows raised at WVDNR hatcheries and the White Sulphur Springs Federal Hatchery. The WVDNR has a long standing cooperative relationship with the White Sulphur Springs Federal Hatchery to receive and stock surplus trout across the State.

Of the 2,500 trophy-size trout, 250 will be tagged with a special

number. Anglers who reel in one of these tagged fish and submit a photo of their catch will receive a commemorative hat and certificate.

“I want to thank Gov. Justice for always thinking big when it comes to promoting our natural resources and all of the rich hunting and fishing opportunities we have to offer here in West Virginia,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. “Our new monster trout stocking program is just one of the incredible projects we’ve created under Gov. Justice’s leadership to not only improve the angling experience in West Virginia but make our state the envy of the angling community around the

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country and around the world.”

All anglers 15 years and older are required to have a West Virginia fishing license, trout stamp and a valid form of identification while fishing for trout. Licenses and stamps can be purchased at 160 retail locations across the state or online at WVfish.com.



Denver Wilfong caught a 24” rainbow. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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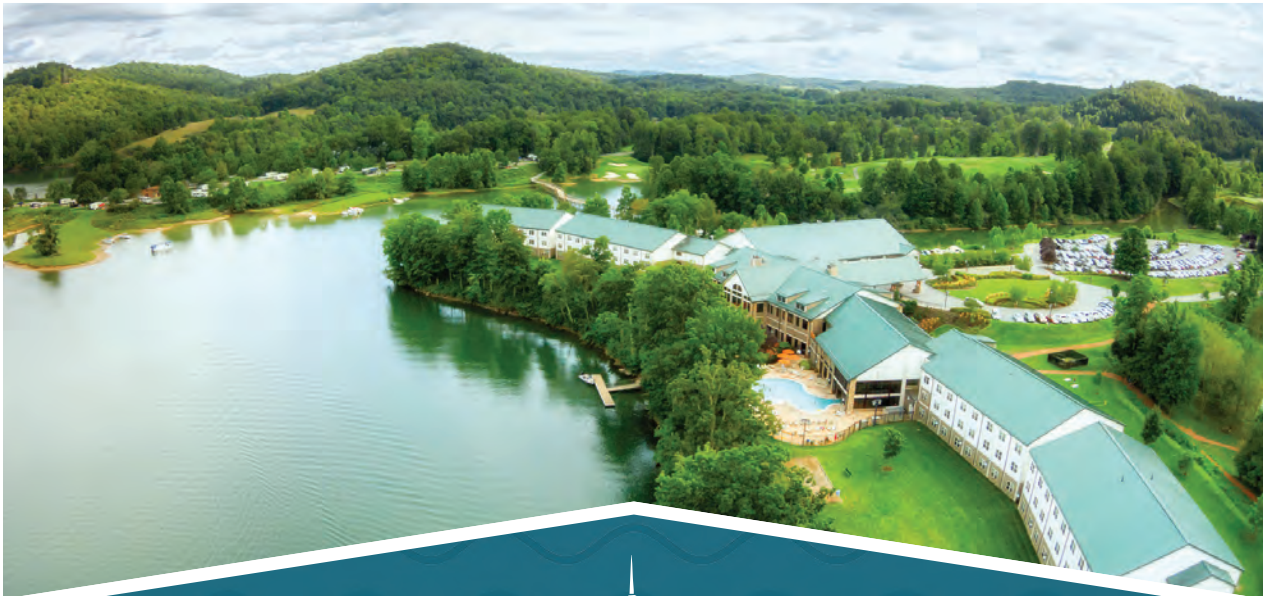
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Chad Smith bowed a Lewis County buck.

Field Dress Your Deer

Sportsmanship includes the responsible care and use of meat obtained while hunting. An important step toward placing quality venison on your dinner table is proper care of the animal immediately following harvest. To help with that endeavor, here is a step-by-step guide to field-dressing a white-tailed deer.



Johsua Boggs is holding Isaha Honaker's catfish. Photo courtesy of PC Outdoors in Crab Orchard.




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Some hunters have a meat pole or skinning shed where they hang their deer to remove the entrails. That's great, but most hunters field-dress their deer on the ground prior to bringing them home or taking them to the meat processor. If you field-dress your deer while it's hanging, you can still follow these directions – gravity simply helps the process.

If you field-dress your deer on the ground, follow these 10 steps to make this important task quick and easy.

- 1) Start by tagging your deer, if required, and then put on a pair of rubber, plastic or latex gloves.
- 2) Place the deer on its back with its hind legs spread.
- 3) If it is a buck, remove the testi-

continue to the next page

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icles, and use the hole left behind as your starting point. If it is a doe, like you see in these photos, start at the bottom of the udder.

4) Poke your knife into the skin and begin cutting up toward the chest. Keep the cut shallow and only cut through the skin. A deep cut will puncture the stomach and make your job messy and smelly. Cut from your starting point up to the sternum (bottom of rib cage).

If your knife has a guthook, pull from your starting point up to the sternum. A guthook can help guard

continue to the next page



Coby Dight hunted in Wood Co. with his bow for an 8 point buck.



Riley McCloy used a crossbow for a fall gobbler in Ritchie Co.



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against cutting into the stomach.
5) The lower half of the body cavity is now open and you can remove the entrails (stomach, intestines, etc.).

Pull everything out and cut the organs away from the body. The large intestine connects to the anus, and you will not be able to remove it in its entirety at this point. You can cut through the large intestine or move it aside until Step 9. If you choose to cut through it, be careful to not get any feces on the meat. You'll remove the lower portion of the intestine and the bladder in Step 9.

6) You now have an empty lower



Carly Thompson used a .22 for her 1st squirrel.

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cavity and you will be able to see the diaphragm. The diaphragm is simply the thin wall of muscle that separates the chest cavity (heart and lungs) from the lower cavity (stomach and intestines).

7) Remove the diaphragm by cutting along the inside of the ribs. You will now be able to see the heart and lungs.

However, if you will be making a trip to the taxidermist's, never cut through the sternum or anywhere in front of the front legs.

8) Reach into the upper chest



Josh Bates used a bow for his double brow buck in Wetzel Co..

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cavity and remove the heart and lungs by cutting them away from the body. You will need to reach in and cut the esophagus to detach the lungs.

9) Return to your starting point between the legs and cut from there down through the meat to the anus. This will allow the back legs to lay open and will expose the pelvis.

Cut through the pelvis with a small saw or a pair of lopping/pruning shears. This will expose

the bladder and lower portion of the large intestine. Cut these away with care to not spill urine or feces on the animal. The deer's tenderloins are among the highest quality cuts of meat and they lie on the inside of the lower body cavity, close to the stomach and intestines. Spilling urine or feces on them can affect their quality.

10) Roll your deer over or pick its front end up to dump any blood out and you're done. Take care to keep the carcass clean of dirt,

leaves and other debris.

At this point you can take your deer home or to the meat processor's. If possible, wash it out to remove any remaining blood or dirt. Congratulations, and enjoy your venison!

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Conner Richards used a .22 for his 2 nice gray squirrels.



Gary Sheppard used a bow for a nice Jackson County buck.

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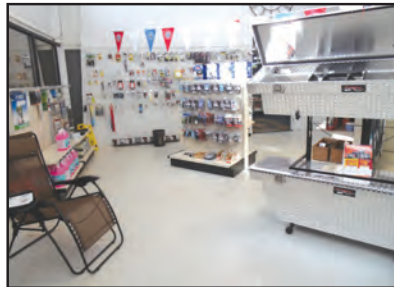
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Wild Boar In WV

BECKLEY, W.VA. — The first segment of West Virginia's wild boar firearms season will take place from Oct. 22-29 in Boone, Logan, Raleigh and Wyoming counties.

"Wild boars are dependent on hard mast crops and white oak and chestnut oak are the main hard mast crops available in the boar counties this year," said Colin Carpenter, project leader for the West Virginia Division of Nat-

ural Resources. "Boars will take advantage of these food sources, so hunters would be wise to begin their search for boar signs in stands of white oak."

Only residents are allowed to hunt wild boars and no special permit is required. Hunters are reminded that if they are hunting in a county open to firearms antlerless deer hunting, they must wear 400 square inches of blaze orange over their outer clothing while the antlerless season is open.

The second split of the wild boar firearms season will take place Feb. 3-5, 2023. Details about wild boar hunting seasons can be found on page 43 of the 2022-23 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, available at WVdnr.gov.

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Adam Miller got his crossbow deer in Wood County.

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Colton Lestor got a big McDowell bow buck. Photo courtesy of C&C Packett in Glen Fork.



Larry Mason caught a wild rainbow trout.

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Mason Pierson (8) got a nice 8 point Fayette County buck.



Baylee White used a bow for a great Logan County buck.



Hunting in Webster Co., Dustin Woods arrowed a huge buck.



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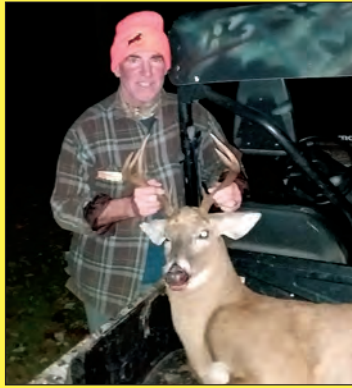


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