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Issue 280

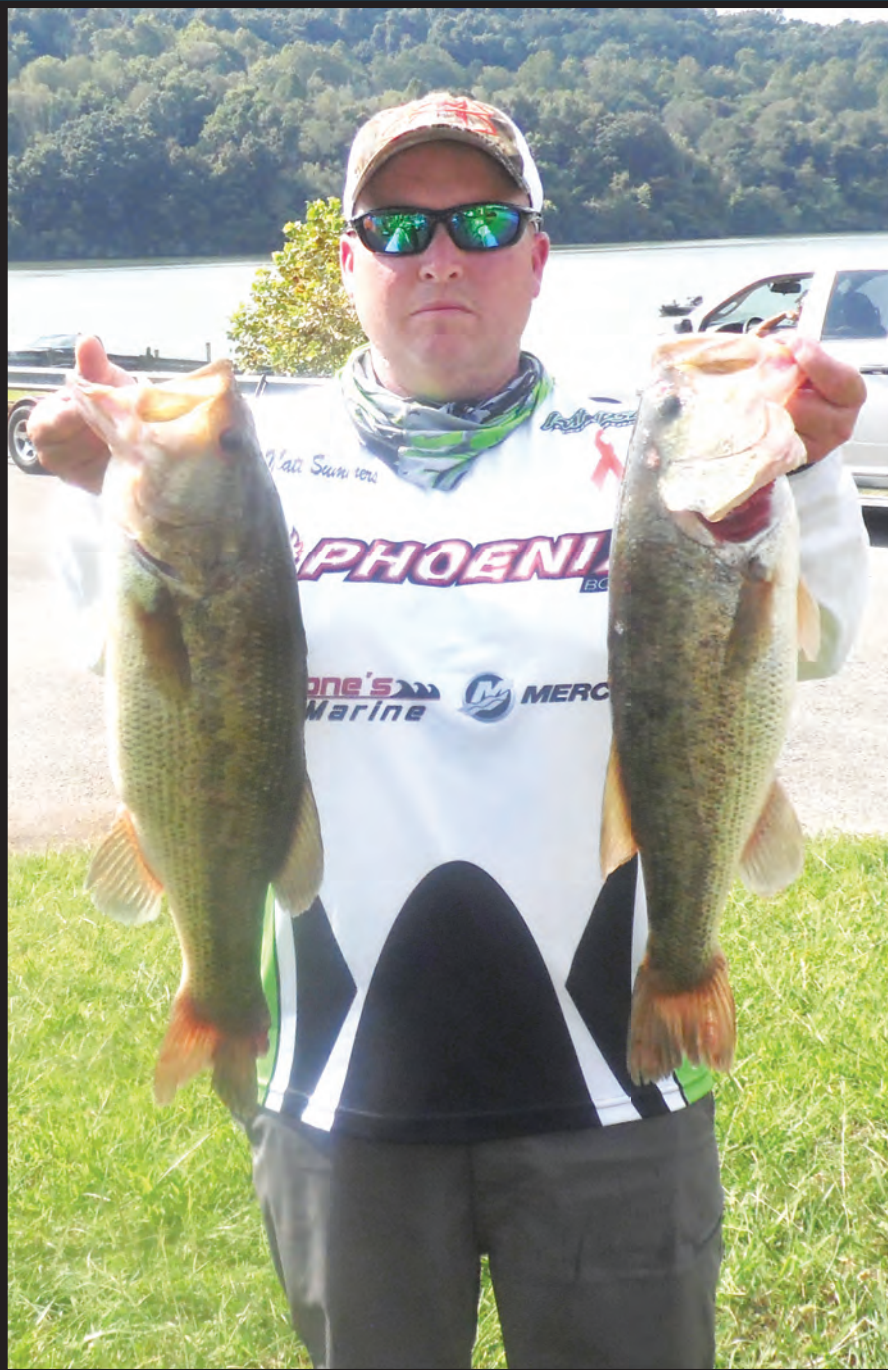
September/October 2019

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**Volume 1 Issue 280**

Publisher and Editor  
**Mark A. Goudy**

Contributing Editors  
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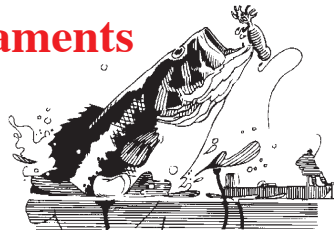
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## Cover Photo

Matt Summers landed a 5 pound, 10 oz. largemouth and another over 5 pounds at the Stonewall Classic bass tournament in early September. He and Travas Bennett won the tournament with a combined two day weight of 29 pounds, 5 oz.

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

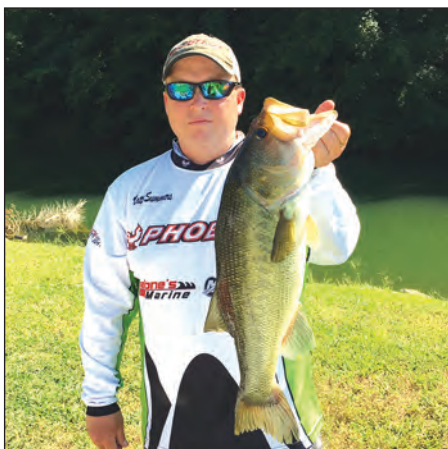
TEXT, mail or email your large fish or game pictures - page 38.



# 2019 Bow & Crossbow Season

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Director Stephen McDaniel says the state's 2019 archery and crossbow seasons for white-tailed deer, black bear and wild boar will open Saturday, Sept. 28 and run through Dec. 31.

"Interest in archery and crossbow hunting continues to be very strong and West Virginia provides an incredible opportunity for our state hunters, and those from outside of West Virginia, to enjoy our wonderful woodlands while hunting for deer, bear and wild boars," McDaniel said. "We're excited about the upcoming season for bow hunters and believe it will be a productive harvest."



Matt Summers caught a 4 pound, 13 oz. largemouth at Burnsville Lake during the Kings of the Lakes Bass event. It was the biggest.

McDaniel went on to note that in addition to having a valid base hunting license, those interested in harvesting a bear must do the following:

Buy a Bear Damage Stamp (Class DS). Nonresidents need a Class EE Bear Hunting License and Conservation Stamp (Class CS or CS/LE) and if they are hunting on the national forest they must have a Class I stamp.

Two bears may be taken per year, provided at least one bear is taken in Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Nicholas, Preston, Raleigh or Wyoming counties.

The daily bag limit for bear remains one per day.

As for white-tailed deer, McDaniel said hunters must buy stamps if they wish to harvest additional deer.

One or two additional archery deer, depending on the county, may be taken with Class RB (resident) or Class RRB (nonresident) stamps

continue to the next page

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Luke Powell used an AR style rifle to take a gobbler during the youth season..

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(one deer per stamp). Additional archery stamps must be bought before Sept. 28.

Resident underage and senior hunters must buy a Class RB stamp to take additional archery or cross-bow deer, but resident landowners hunting on their own property and Class DT (Life-threatening Conditions) license holders are not required to purchase any additional archery stamps.

In 11 counties or portions thereof, hunters must take an antlerless deer in any regular season before harvesting a second antlered deer in that county.

Individuals may take up to two deer in one day during the archery or crossbow seasons. The first deer does not have to be electronically checked before harvesting the second deer in the same day. However, only one antlered deer may be

taken in the same day during any season.

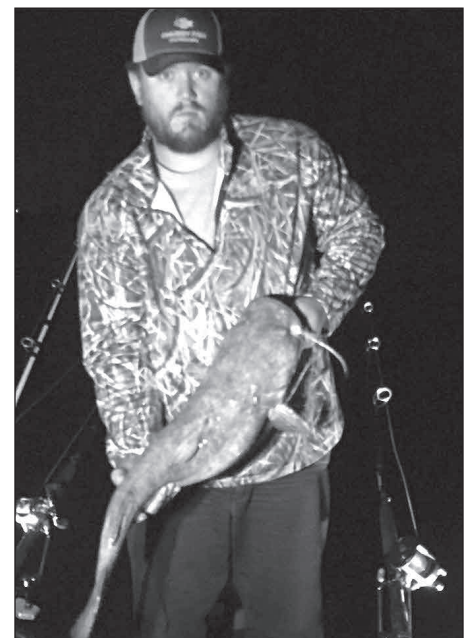
Special regulations exist for the four archery-only counties – Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming. In these counties, only two archery deer may be taken, one of which must be antlerless. In these counties, crossbows can only be used by holders of Class Y/YY permits.

The wild boar archery and cross-bow seasons are open in Boone, Logan, Raleigh and Wyoming counties. McDaniel indicated. The season bag limit is one boar.

The wild boar archery season will reopen Feb. 7, 2020, and close Feb. 9. To hunt in the February wild boar season, hunters will need a 2020 base hunting license.

For more information on hunting regulations, hunters should consult the 2019-2020 West Virginia Sept./Oct. 2019 ~ Page 5

Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary available at DNR offices, license agents, or on the WVDNR website [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).



Josh Callahan reeled in a nice flat-head fishing while night fishing.

## Elk Viewing Tours In Logan County

LOGAN COUNTY, W.Va. — Elk management tours return to Logan County this September and October. Reservations are being taken now for guided tours of the elk reintroduction site at the Tomblin Wildlife Management Area, where elk from Kentucky and Arizona were released in 2016 and 2018. The four-hour tours start at Chief Logan Lodge and are led by Park Naturalist Lauren Cole, who will focus on the history and management of elk in West Virginia, past, present and future.

West Virginia's last native elk was seen in Webster County in 1875.

"These elk are not in pens or enclosures. They are free roaming, breeding and reestablishing a population," said Cole. "Although there is no guarantee of seeing elk, the overall goal is to understand the terrain and vegetation of sustainable elk habitat, to observe tracks and signs not only of elk but also other big game and nongame wildlife in the area. We will approach the tour from more of a hunting aspect – tracking and observation."



Kerry Dunbar, from Marietta, OH caught and released a 42" Muskingham River musky.

## 2019 BASS SPORTSMAN TOURNAMENT \$90 + \$10 Big Bass Entry Fee

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Participants are required to wear boots or sturdy closed-toe footwear. The tour can involve up to 2 miles of walking on rough terrain with inclines. Scented products, food and pets are discouraged.

Morning or evening tours are offered at 5:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. Advance registration is required, with payment made at the time of registration. Tours are limited to 12 persons.

The cost is \$30 per adult and \$27 for youth under 15 and includes breakfast or afternoon snack, the educational program, transportation and a tour souvenir.

An overnight package of \$150 includes accommodations for two at Chief Logan Lodge and two elk tour tickets. All available tour

dates, details, and reservations can be made at <https://wvstateparks.com/things-to-do/elk-management-tours>. To book a tour only, please select the date you'd like to reserve. For tours and lodging packages, please select the "Book a Lodging and Tour Package" button.

Chief Logan Lodge is near Chief Logan State Park in Logan County. The facility features a 75-room lodge, restaurant and conference center.

continue to page 8

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Other Game Animals  
Details On Page 38





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 September  
 Saturday, Sept. 21 — Evening  
 Sunday, Sept. 22 — Evening  
 October  
 Thursday, Oct. 3 — Evening  
 Saturday, Oct. 5 — Evening  
 Sunday, Oct. 6 — Evening

Thursday, Oct. 10 — Evening  
 Saturday, Oct. 12 — Evening  
 Sunday, Oct. 13 — Evening  
 Thursday, Oct. 17 — Evening  
 Saturday, Oct. 19 — Morning  
 Saturday, Oct. 19 — Evening  
 Sunday, Oct. 20 — Evening  
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Larry Tennant hooked and released a 48" musky at Stonecoal Lake.

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## Early Bear Season

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — An early black bear gun season, with or without hunting dogs, runs from Aug. 31 through Sept. 15 in all of Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties.

All or parts of 16 counties will be open to bear gun hunting Sept. 21-27, with or without dogs. They are Barbour (east of Route 92), Braxton (east of I - 79), Clay (south of Elk River), Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Mineral (west of New Creek), Monroe (east of Route 219), Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Tucker, Upshur (east of Route 20) and Webster.

All of Boone, Fayette, Kanawha and Raleigh counties will be open to bear gun hunting Oct. 5-11, with or without dogs.

“Counties that will be open for early bear hunting are above their  
continue to the next page



Hunter Ayers landed a 5 pound, 2 oz. largemouth at the Stonewall Classic. His team finished 2nd with 24 pounds of bass in two days.

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management objective and need additional bears to be harvested to achieve their goal,” said Colin Carpenter, black bear project leader for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR). “The benefit of early seasons is that all bears are available because den entrance is still two or more months away.”

Carpenter advises that oak mast from the red oak group appears to be more abundant in most areas than in 2018, and many of the soft mast species have done well. Bears often feed heavily on soft mast early in the season before hard mast becomes available.

“Hunters who focus their efforts near black cherry trees that have fruit, abandoned apple orchards and autumn olive thickets should be able to find bruins,” Carpenter said.


Successful hunters are required to submit a premolar tooth from each harvested bear. In addition, hunters who harvest a female black bear are encouraged to save the reproductive tract or all the entrails. Hunters who submit a complete reproductive tract will be eligible for a \$20 gift card. Data obtained from tooth samples and reproductive tracts are used for black bear

continue to the next page



Joey Longwell hooked a big large-mouth bass.

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Keith McCord caught & released a 52 1/2” musky at Burnsville Lake.




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Hunters can get a bear tooth envelope at all DNR Wildlife Resources Section district offices and the Elkins Operations Center. Hunters with reproductive tracts or entrails should keep them cool or freeze them and contact their nearest Wildlife Resources district office to arrange pickup.

Hunters are reminded to purchase their bear damage stamp as well as an appropriate hunting license. Details concerning bear hunting seasons can be found on pages 35-40 of the 2019-2020 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary.

## Wild Bird Seasons

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — West Virginia's 2019-2020 hunting season dates and bag limits for mourning dove, woodcock, common snipe and sora and Virginia rails have been set. Mourning dove season, which normally opens Sept. 1, opens a day later this year on Sept. 2. These seasons are set within the annual guidelines established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The dove season is split into three segments. The first segment runs from Sept. 2 to Oct. 13. Shooting hours Sept. 2 are noon to sunset. For the remainder of the season, shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The daily bag limit is 15 birds.

The woodcock season is split into two segments. Both the snipe and

rail seasons are a single segment. Shooting hours for woodcock, snipe and rails are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

All licensed migratory bird hunters, including lifetime license holders and senior citizens, must have a valid Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration card. HIP cards are available online at [www.wvhunt.com](http://www.wvhunt.com) and at license agents.

For more information, consult West Virginia's 2019-2020 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations brochure, available online at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov), at license agents and at Division of Natural Resources offices.

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# Squirrel Hunting

Is your favorite shotgun a suitable weapon for hunting early season squirrels?

In years past, hunters would begin their sporting careers in pursuit of small game. The tricks and tactics they learned were then put to use on bigger game such as deer and turkeys.

These days, however, the trend has been reversed. Most new hunters head straight for the deer stand or turkey blind and never learn the basic skills and strategies gained by long hours spent cruising the hardwoods in search of sharp-eyed bushytails.

When these hunters finally do take to the woods for a serious squirrel hunt, they discover they are woefully ill equipped for the challenge.

Most leave the woods without firing a shot, let alone seeing a squirrel, often blaming the lake of game for their poor performance. Veteran squirrel hunters know better.

## Know Your Quarry

Woods squirrels are nowhere near as "tame" as those found in back yards, city parks, and urban woodlots. "Town" squirrels are used to human activity and adapt to it, but woodland bushy tails want no part of human intruders -- one predator is as bad as an other, and the common reaction is avoidance.

Squirrels are masters of evasion,

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employing a variety of tactics to avoid detection. Squirrels are common and abundant wherever mast-producing hardwoods are found, but you won't see them if you don't take them seriously.

## Basic Squirrel Strategies

Squirrels are active throughout the day but especially at dawn and dusk. Early in the season they'll leave their dens well before dawn

continue to the next page



Walt Williams, from Cross Lanes caught a 6 pound, 4 oz. largemouth

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to begin harvesting the season's new bounty of hickory nuts, acorns and pine nuts. Knowing that, the hunter should enter the woods slowly and quietly, listening for the sounds of squirrels jumping from limb to limb, gnawing nutshells, or barking and wheezing to announce their territories.

Squirrels will continue to feed throughout the day, unless they are disturbed, so there is no rush to get into the woods. Take your time; look and listen, using the same skills a still-hunter employs while hunting deer.

Mast-eating squirrels are often focused on the job at hand and will ignore small sounds, but snapping twigs and shuffling leaves will get their attention, shutting them down for an hour or more. For that reason, it's important for the hunter to move slowly and deliberately, eyes scanning the treetops, to avoid spooking suspicious bushytails.

If the woods suddenly go silent and still, it's likely that the squirrels know that something or someone is nearby. In that case, pick a scheduled spot high on a ridge, sit quietly and wait for the activity to resume. It may be 20 minutes or more before the first squirrel appears, but they will return when



Jared Bowen, from Elkview, hooked a 24 3/4" walleye.



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they decide that the coast is clear. Patience, then, is the squirrel hunter's greatest ally. Wait as long

as you can, and then wait another 15 minutes before moving on. Fiddle continue to the next page



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gety, impatient hunters will see few squirrels!

During the early season it's possible to move slowly and quietly until the hunter is directly below a foraging squirrel. The animal may be in a crown of the tree, barley visible through the leaves, given away by a steady rain of particles as the rodent gnaws through the nut's casing.

Even then it can be difficult to spot the animal through the dense foliage, but with patience the determined hunter will zero in on his target. It's often said that squirrel hunting is "a pain in the neck," and early season hunters quickly find out why!

When hunting the early season, expect to see multiple squirrels in one mast tree, especially hickories and oaks. When a shot is fired, reload quickly and wait several minutes before retrieving the downed squirrel. Remain still, and many times two, three or more squirrels will resume feeding a short time after the shot. That gives the savvy hunter more opportunities to score.

Because squirrels are most often found in the highest treetops during the early season, a fully-choked shotgun and magnum load of No. 5 or No.6 shot might be needed to bring them down.

**Mid-Season Shift**

Once the leaves are down, squirrels shift their focus to foraging on

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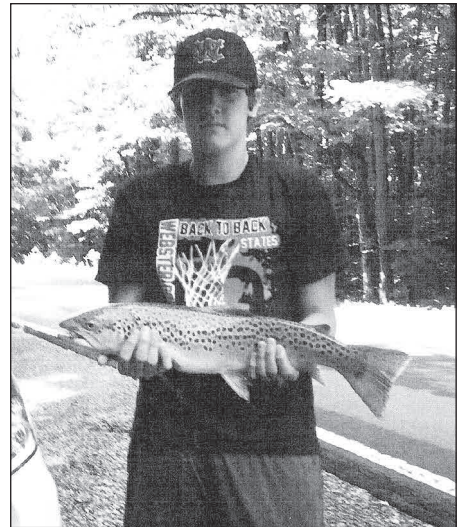
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the ground for nuts that have fallen from the trees and are buried beneath the leaves. Again, focus on areas where mast-producing trees are abundant, but now it's time to switch to a .22 or .17-caliber rifle.

Squirrels are extremely observant and can spot danger from long distances in the open woods. A track-driving rimfire rifle is the ideal tool for picking them off of logs and limbs.

As the season wears on, squirrels are most active at dawn and dusk (as any deer hunter will attest!), al-  
continue to the next page



David Selman, from Cowen, hooked a 25" brown trout.



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though they will do some midday foraging. Plan to get into the woods early and sit in an area where there is plenty of squirrel sign, primarily gnawed nut hulls and piles of shavings where squirrels like to sit and eat while they watch for predators.

Most logs and stumps in a hardwood stand will exhibit plenty of squirrel sign. It then becomes a matter of how long a hunter is able to sit still, using a fallen tree, stump or rockpile for cover. Sit low on the ground using the obstacles as protective cover. Do not sit on top of blowdowns or stumps because even the slightest movement will alert squirrels.

Mid-season squirrels will leave their dens and come to the ground via the limbs and trunks of trees. It's best to allow the squirrel to reach the ground and begin foraging because they move quickly an erratically en route, providing poor targets for a rifle-toting hunter.

Give the animal time to dig through the leaves and find the acorn or hickory nut of its choice and let the squirrel begin gnawing on it. At that point the squirrel is stationary and focused on its meal, offering an easy shot.

If you miss a shot, quickly reload and continue to aim. Squirrels hear loud noises throughout the day but

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are most concerned with movement. Give the animal time to settle down and resume feeding, and then try another shot.

Late-Season Tactics


If early season squirrels can be

called "busy," then late-season bushytails can be considered extremely lazy. More likely it's a lack of food that keeps end-of-season squirrels tucked inside their dens

continue to the next page



Travas Bennett and Matt Summers (on left) won the Stonewall Classic bass event held on Sept. 7 & 8 with a 2 day weight of 29 pounds, 5 oz. (6 fish each day). Matt Summers (middle) won big bass on day one with a 5 pound, 10 oz. bass. Tai Letan (right) had big bass with a very impressive 7 pound even bass on day 2. Other winners were Ayers - Ayers with 24 pounds even, Letan - Letan with 20 pounds, 7 oz., Billeter - Deiterich with 19 pounds, 4 oz., Balser - Balser with 19 pounds, 3 oz., and Batten - Batten with 19 pounds, 2 oz. 31 teams competed at Stonewall Jackson Lake.



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for long periods during the waning days of the hunting season, but they often come out only for short periods at dawn and dusk, sometimes not appearing for two or three days at a time.

The best way to gather a limit of squirrels at that time of the season is to find a den tree and be on hand for the short sunrise or sunset foraging period. Den trees usually

are easy to recognize; they are the large, twisted, often dead specimens that are full of holes, offering plenty of hiding places for lethargic winter squirrels.

The animals may come out for a few minutes early or late in the day, often just to sit on a convenient limb and soak up some sun, occasionally venturing out in search of nuts or to travel to another nearby

den tree. The action can be fast and furious, lasting only a few minutes, but on a good day a hunter with sharp reflexes can down a limit or near limit of squirrels out of the same tree.

One year I shot at and missed a squirrel five times with my .22 as it poked its head out of a hole in the side of a huge, dead oak about 30 yards away. At least I thought I'd missed. When I went over to figure out what happened I found five dead squirrels lying in the leaves below the hole. It pays to sit tight and wait!

The recipe for successful squirrel hunting is simple: patience, persistence and optimism. It's not easy, but once you master the art of squirrel hunting, your big-game forays will seem like child's play.

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Tai Letan caught a 7 and 5 pound even bass at the Stonewall Classic.

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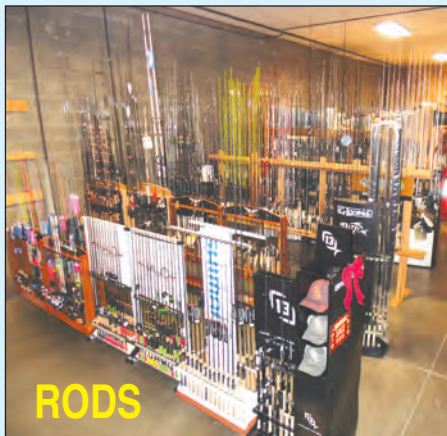


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## Early Season Archery For Deer Tips

The first several weeks of October can be some of the most exciting days spent bow hunting or they can be downright tough. Whether you are hunting your best stands right away or saving them so you do not burn them out early in the year, think about what early season bow hunting tips may make you successful the first few days of the season. October hunting is about focusing on the opportunities that present themselves and taking advantage where you can. Be more patient in your hunting approach as the season starts to unfold and consider these five October bow hunting tips.

Opening Day Archery Deer Hunting

It is opening day of bow season. Your summer has been filled with preparation from planting food plots to dialing in your Hoyt® bow. The expectations are high and the desire to get back in the Silverado and drive to the woods are overwhelming. But how do you hunt the first day and first few weeks of archery season?

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When hunting early season white-tails you should focus on where you are seeing deer. Deer sightings this time of year, whether through game cameras or pre-season scouting, offer the best clues to current deer movements. Whitetails are focused on food, much of which is abundant this time of year. Concentrate on food sources where deer are actively feeding day in  
continue to the next page



Gary Bonnell hooked and released a 32" musky.



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and day out like agricultural fields and established food plots. Deer have long forgotten about hunting pressure, the woods are mostly free from disturbance and deer movement patterns are unchanged. A perfect time to ambush a buck walking to his evening meal.

No matter which bow hunting tips and tactics you are using, consider being patient early, specifically with choosing that hunting spot on opening morning. Although the first day is a great opportunity to kill an opening day buck, the last thing you want to do is hunt a buck that is not ready, disturb an area that would be productive in the rut or force deer to change their



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patterns, like becoming nocturnal bruisers, because you were careless the first day.

Opening Day Buck

Tip 1: Utilizing Mock Scrapes

Scrapes are not just limited to the rut. Bucks make them and use them all year long. These territorial signs define a buck's home and let other bucks know this area is taken. Even though does use scrapes, know that bucks primarily make them. Bow hunting tips like using mock scrapes are designed to get bucks agitated and start to patrol their neighborhoods.

Location is everything when it comes to using mock scrapes. Look for edges, travel corridors and other funnels to install a mock scrape. Scout out these locations for deer sign and find an area that has plenty of deer movement sign combined with a good stand tree to set up in.

How to Make a Mock Scrape

Once you find the right location for the scrape and your bow hunting setup, Start by being as scent free as possible when going in. Wear rubber gloves and prepare from a scent perspective just as you would do if planning to hunt. A mock

continue to the next page



Malory Yeater bagged a nice gobler in Tyler County.

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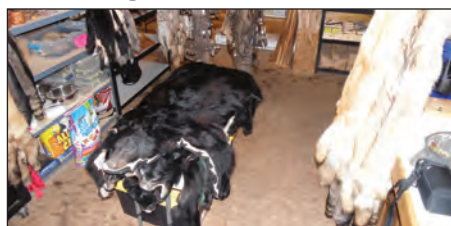
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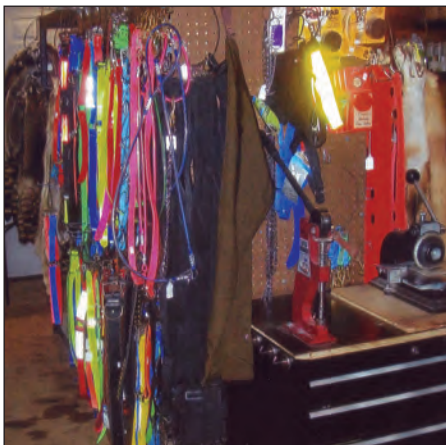
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## How to Make a Mock Scrape

Once you find the right location for the scrape and your bow hunting setup, Start by being as scent free as possible when going in. Wear rubber gloves and prepare from a scent perspective just as you would do if planning to hunt. A mock scrape is as simple as these three steps.

Use a small hand shovel or a sturdy branch to remove leaf cover, twigs, and other debris from approximately a 2-foot oval beneath a small tree with low hanging branches at about 4- to 6-feet above the ground.

In the clear area, add a small amount of Code Blue® Whitetail Buck Urine to the freshly exposed soil.

Revisit the scrape every few days to make sure it is fresh; however, once a buck cruises upon the mock scrape, he will usually take it over and do most of the maintaining.

Extra early season bow hunting tip for using mock scrapes: Score the bark of a few nearby trees that  
continue to page 24



Evan Hyson landed his first large-mouth bass. Photo courtesy of DSD Kawasaki in Parkersburg.



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are upwind from the scrape to create a mock rub. Adding these visual clues may lure in a passing buck that missed the deer lure.

### Tip 2: Trail Cameras for Increasing Your October Odds

Trail cameras are no secret. By now your trail cameras should have been out for months collecting pictures and identifying prime whitetail archery hunting locations. If you have been smart, you

have not only focused summer deer monitoring on easy spots like field edges and main travel corridors but you have monitored low risk, high reward spots. Although spots like big woods flats and thickets will not fill your photo folder, you will get a broader perspective of your hunting area. You may even capture a few images of a mature buck, one that may be completely unknown or one that may give himself up to a perfect bow hunting in October stand location. The downside with using game cameras is at some point you have to decide to stop going in to check them. You do not want to get sloppy and unknowingly bump a mature buck or spread scent in a location simply for grabbing some last minute cam pictures. But what if the buck you have been watching for the last few

continue to next page



Kevin Miller caught some nice trout at Babcock Park.

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months all of the sudden changes his patterns? The solution is to start using wireless trail cameras. These cameras can send photos to you for analysis all without having to enter the woods. This is one bow hunting tip that could mean the difference from connecting day one or completely missing your chance.

**Tip 3: Acorns**

Bow hunting in October should revolve around food sources. Anything from a freshly picked cornfield, acorn drop or a robust food plot could trigger a feeding frenzy. Whatever it may be, figuring it out requires a speed-scouting mission, the use of observation stands or wireless trail cameras like we mentioned earlier to zero in on where deer will be.

The acorn, however, can be something special. If oaks are dropping acorns in your hunting area, chances are deer will not be too far away. Deer will be in the beans, corn, and other agricultural fields in July through early September. Although early on do not give up on these food sources or those like quality planted food plots, acorns start to increasingly become the staple of the deer's diet as each day passes.

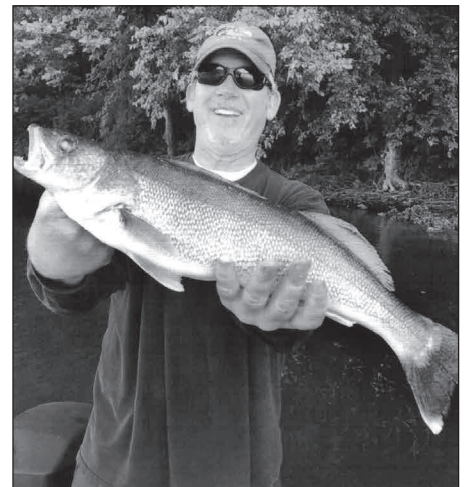
Particularly, bucks are in the process of building fat reserves for the rut and the upcoming winter, so acorns offer protein and fats necessary for readying themselves for

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the next month of action. Does and fawns will be the first to hit dropping acorns but remember bucks are not going to be far behind. They will be more cautious about how they approach and when they get underneath these oaks. Plan archery deer hunting setups back from the middle of these acorn smorgasbords and catch the big boys waiting it out in safety. Remember...acorns are a big reason your summer bucks disappear during the fall.

continue to the next page



Dave Lowdermilk caught 1a 26" walleye.



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## Tip 4: Early Season Pre-rut Bow Hunting Tactics

The majority of does are still a few weeks away from coming into heat, but there are still several pre-rut bow hunting tips that you can use to your advantage.

### Effective Deer Calling Tips

Early pre-rut can often be the best time to call in a buck. Bucks are starting to build testosterone and the number of receptive does is limited. There is a lot of competition and desire to find a doe in heat.

Pack with you two calls, a Knight & Hale grunt tube and a doe-in-heat bleat. Both are effective at blind calling. Blind calling is calling when no deer are in sight. Start a blind calling sequence with two to four doe bleats followed by several grunts of varying length and speed. Repeat a few times an hour. Any October buck in earshot but out of sight will usually appear to take a peek at either an intruding buck (grunt calling) or a doe ready for action (doe-in-heat bleat).

Rattling is usually reserved for peak rut, but light rattling can also be an effective early season bow hunting tactic. Once bucks have lost their velvet, they start to spar with each other. Keeping rattling light and infrequent to mimic friendly sparring of two bucks, which regularly occurs this time of year. Avoid hard, loud rattling that is reserved for peak rut knock-down fighting over a doe as being too aggressive

continue to the next page



Brian McClung, from Charleston, caught a nice brown trout.

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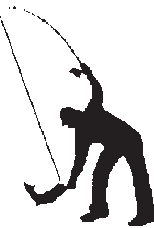
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can spook nearby bucks.

From the onset of seeing scrapes and rubs in the woods, you should be carrying deer scents while whitetail archery hunting. Similar to other bow hunting tips like using mock scrapes, using scent drags and "freshen up" actual scrapes near your stand can be successful in October.

Since the rut is weeks away, you want to stick to deer scents that would naturally occur this time of year. Estrus lures can work well on mature bucks and are worth a try if you have one patterned from pre-season scouting in your area. However, you are better off using a buck urine or curiosity scent in most circumstance the first few days of October. Try a scent drag soaked in your preferred curiosity lure. Remember not to run a mile long drag. Start it a few hundred yards from your bow hunting destination for two reasons. First, a buck may lose interest or get distracted by something else trying to follow your scent drag from your truck. Second, it will eat up expensive scent with no real benefit to your hunt.

With some areas of the country already well into whitetail archery hunting season and others yet to

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start, capitalize on October bow hunting opportunities coming up to land one of those big racks you

have been watching all summer with these bow hunting tips.



Dave Post, from Mineralwells, caught a walleye in Canada.



Matt Harper reeled in a huge largemouth bass.

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# Using Deer Scents

To avoid danger and stay alive, a whitetail uses its ability to detect faint odors more than any other sense. Without argument, its nose is its greatest aid in survival; however, it can also prove to be its undoing when it comes up against a hunter who develops the right strategy of combining attractant and cover scents. To do this, a hunter needs to know what to use, when to use it and then execute a plan that will put a buck at total ease and even pull him in for an easy shot. Here's how to build your own easy-to-follow scent plan for big buck success.

## Time Your Scents

First, you have to use the right scent for the right phase of the rut you're hunting. I still see a lot of guys who use that generic bottle of doe pee pulled from a discount

store shelf throughout the season and expect it to bring bucks running as the rut hits fever pitch. I've also seen hunters who dropped top dollar on doe in estrous scent and started dumping the stuff out as early as mid-October in the honest belief they were going to trick bucks into thinking they were the first doe ready to mate. Again, with the foolish notion that bucks would come running. Both types of hunter

are missing the point and not getting the real benefits from attractant scents that can be had.

"It's important that a hunter use a scent that is believable to the deer," says Mike Mattly, public relations manager of Code Blue scents and an avid Iowa deer hunter. Here's what you need to use and when to use it.

Doe Urine—Basic urine from a doe  
continue to page 31

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Greg St. Clair caught a nice channel catfish in Lewis County.

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is good throughout the season, but mostly during the earliest weeks, before the rut when bucks are still in bachelor groups and not yet super competitive. More than anything, doe urine will reassure deer as they pass through an area that everything is all right. A relaxed deer is much easier to hunt than one on edge. This serves the same purpose throughout the season and can bring curious deer in on a trail dragged with the scent. As the rut recedes and deer begin to fall back into feeding patterns, doe urine is a solid go-to scent.

**Buck Urine**—A quality buck urine used in conjunction with scrapes (real or mock) or in other high-traffic areas is a good transition attractant leading up to the rut. Aggression in bucks is building and they are becoming more competitive. The smell of an intruder in their space, mixed with the sound of deep grunts and rattles, can draw them near in an effort to locate the interloper. Now is the time to challenge a buck.

**Doe Estrous**—Not until you are within two weeks of the peak of the rut do you want to use the higher-dollar doe estrous scents. As soon as you notice bucks beginning to chase tail-wagging does and your trail cams pick up increased activity, you want to drape the area around your best stand with estrous scent. Use it both on a drag into your stand and around your setup to act as a cover to scent and as an attractant. Use this throughout the key phase of the rut until you detect the rutting urge beginning to wane and then push it a few days more. Not all does will come in or go out of estrus at the same time, so by being one of the last ones, you may pull that one buck still seek-

continue to the next page

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ing.  
 Tarsal Gland—Fuel both a big boy's rage and sexual drive by busting out a little tarsal scent from a buck, along with that doe in estrous. Drip them both in mock scrapes along an existing scrape line or mud-worn deer trail and stay at the ready. Both work well on a drag. Use throughout the rut peak. Code Blue's Gravedigger line of scent-impregnated soils are ideal for scrape use.

**Scent Setup The Right Way**

Don't spend money on scents only to fail in using them in a way that will maximize possible results. There's a trick to placing the scent around your stand.

Be Realistic—A lot of hunters expect to hang scents out and then watch as deer come running in to check them out. To anyone who has hunted with scents, however, that just isn't the case. Scent locations serve more to get a deer just

walking past to stop and check it out, giving a hunter a better chance at getting a stationary, broadside shot.

Be a Drag—Using a scent drag soaked in the proper scent serves two purposes: One, it helps cover your own scent you may leave behind when walking in and two, it can serve to catch a buck's attention as he is cruising by and draw him in a little closer. Again, I don't

continue to page 34

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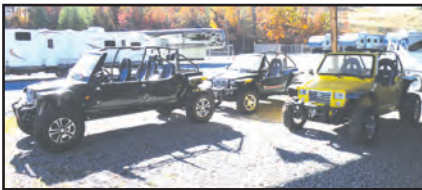


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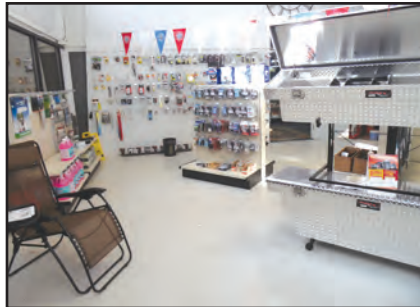
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want to oversell the latter. A heavily placed scent trail doesn't mean a buck is going to come running right into your stand along that path. More often than not, it will peak his attention so he will work around the area trying to catch more scent to confirm what he hopes is an actual doe.

**Use Wicks**—Sure, cotton balls in plastic canisters work, but they can also alter the smell of scents when combined with whatever material the canisters are made from. Wicks are made expressly for the job, and many today come with their own

containers where you can store them free from contamination. The containers also help to avoid fewer sloppy spills.

**Minimize Scent Locations**—I used to put four or five scent bombs in a big circle around me to cover every direction. Not necessary, says Wildlife Research Center's Ron Bice. "All you need are two wicks," Bice says. Hang one to your left and one to your right in order to catch anything passing by. If it makes you feel better, hang one directly in front of you as well. Bice also warns to never hang scents behind

you or in spots where you won't be able to make a shot.

**Keep in Range**—You also don't want to hang them farther than you can shoot. Place them adjacent to shooting lanes or likely travel routes within shooting distance of your stand, so when a deer stops to

continue to the next page



Josh Sommerville hooked & released a 42" musky at Elk River.



Charity Callahan landed a nice catfish at night.

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check it out, you can take the shot. Higher is Better—Scent bombs placed on the ground may seem like they would be more realistic, but bottom-line is, they are also less effective. Instead, hang them at least five or six feet from the ground in order to be better caught by gentle breezes and thermals, thereby expanding the chance to draw a curious (or agitated) deer

into your setup. When creating mock scrapes or enhancing a real one, use a scent dripper. This will both deposit scent on the ground where a deer will expect it and catch the higher breezes where the smell can be caught from farther out.



Dustin White, from Madison, caught an 8 pound, 13oz. bass

**EHD Found In Deer**  
 SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va.  
 — West Virginia is experiencing an outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in the state's white-tailed deer herd, according to the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR).

So far this year, deer have been found dead in small areas of Summers, Monroe and Greenbrier counties. Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, virus serotype 2 (EHDV-2) has been isolated from Summers County. Hemorrhagic Disease can be caused by either EHDV or Blue Tongue Virus (BTV). No BTV infected deer have been detected.

West Virginia samples were sent to the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study located at the University of Georgia, School of Veterinary Medicine where they

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isolated and identified the virus as EHDV-2. Although this disease usually does not have a major impact on the deer population, the DNR Wildlife Resources Section is surveying the extent of the disease outbreak in the state. EHDV may cause local reductions in the deer herd of 20% or less.

“The disease disappears with the first frost, because the spread of the virus is dependent on small midges called Culicoides that are killed by cold temperatures,” said Gary Foster, assistant chief in charge of game management for DNR.

EHD does not occur in West Virginia every year; the last large outbreaks of this disease in West Virginia were in 1996, 2002, 2007, 2012, and 2017. EHDV does not persist in deer that survive infection.

“Although hunters should never consume an obviously sick deer, EHDV is not a reason for hunters to be concerned about consuming their deer,” Foster said.

This disease is not contagious to humans, and EHDV is not related to chronic wasting disease, which has only been detected in Berkeley, Hampshire, Hardy, Mineral and Morgan counties.

Landowners and hunters in the Summers, Monroe, and Greenbrier county region are urged to report sick or dead deer to the DNR District 4 Office located in Beckley at 304-256-6947.

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**2019 BASS SPORTSMAN TOURNAMENT**  
**\$90 + \$10 Big Bass Entry Fee**

**One Event 7am to 3:30pm NO-PREGISTRATION**  
**Sept. 29 - Stonewall - Vandalia Ramp**  
**6 Fish Limit - 6 Can be Over 18"**

*Complete Rules Given At Events*  
 Questions: Mark Goudy 304-482-7217 [wvasport@gmail.com](mailto:wvasport@gmail.com)



## Deer Facts

Deer are part of the Cervidae family that include moose, reindeer, elk and other species.

Male deer grow new antlers each year.

Animals such as antelope resemble deer in a number of ways but have horns instead of antlers, the difference being that horns are not grown and replaced like antlers are.

During the mating season male deer will often use their antlers to fight for the attention of female deer.

Many species of deer have been hunted over the years for their antlers.

A male deer is usually called a 'buck'.

A large male deer is often called 'stag'.

A female deer is usually called a 'doe'.

A young deer is usually called a 'fawn'.

A group of deer is known as a 'herd'.

Deer have long legs typically suited to the environments they live in.

They can jump high and swim well.

Most deer are born with white spots but lose them within a year.

continue to the next page

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Deer take their first steps within half an hour of their birth.

Young deer will usually stay with their mother for around a year.



Lisa Casto, from South Charleston, hooked a 21 1/2" smallmouth bass in Summers County.

**HUNT SAFELY  
THIS SEASON!**  
~ GOOD LUCK ~



Nathan Linder, from Valley Grove, caught a 4 3/4 pound golden trout at Wheeling Creek..



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Roger Balsler landed a 5 pound, 3 oz. bass at the Stonewall Classic.

## LARGE FISH & GAME PICS WANTED

Clip Out

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Pound \_\_\_\_\_ Oz \_\_\_\_\_  
 Deer \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ #Points \_\_\_\_\_

We are looking for LARGE fish & game pictures from 2019.



**NO  
 DOES**

Send Photo To:

**WVS**  
**P.O. Box 5521**  
**Vienna, WV**  
**26105**

**TEXT 304-482-7217**

Photos Will Be Returned

E-mail [wvasport@gmail.com](mailto:wvasport@gmail.com)



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