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Issue 215

February 2012



**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**Grouse  
TIPS**

**B.A.S.S.  
News**

**DNR  
Updates**

**Outdoor Photos**

**VERY LOW PRICES ON NEW & USED MOTORCYCLES, ATVs & SIDE BY SIDES...JUST IN TIME FOR TAX SEASON!**

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## Magazine

**Volume 1 Issue 215**

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Contributing Editors  
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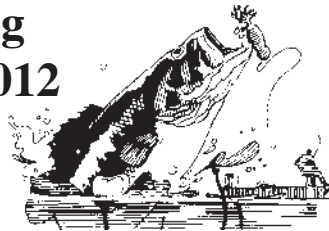
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## Cover Photo

Young Tyler Ayers, from Bruce-  
ton Mills, had success with this  
unusual double drop tine buck. It  
had 12 scoreable points and was  
harvested in the Hinton area.

This years racks over the state  
were larger than normal. Send  
in your great buck pics to this  
publication. The form is on  
page 5.

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## Deer Season Results

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Preliminary counts of game checking tags indicate West Virginia hunters harvested a total of 132,323 white-tailed deer during the recently completed bucks-only, antlerless, muzzleloader, archery and youth/Class Q deer seasons, according to Division of Natural Resources Director Frank Jezioro. This year's total harvest was 24 percent above the 2010 deer harvest of 106,499. A total of 60,516 bucks, 38,381 antlerless season deer, 26,136 bow-killed deer and 7,290 muzzleloader season deer were taken during the 2011 seasons. The top ten counties for total deer harvest are: Preston (5,712), Mason (5,181), Jackson (4,782), Wood (4,173), Upshur (3,883), Lewis (3,815), Monongalia (3,785),

Randolph (3,783), Braxton (3,701) and Roane (3,607).

### Antlerless Deer Season

The 2011 antlerless deer season, which includes the youth/Class Q deer seasons, was 11 percent above 2010 and 16 percent below the five-year average of 45,656. "It is important to note that the antlerless harvest is the key component to any deer management strategy, as it controls the future deer population," said Jezioro. The top 10 counties are: Mason (2,125), Preston (1,958), Jackson (1,776), Wood (1,513), Lewis (1,501), Braxton (1,371), Upshur (1,321), Harrison (1,317), Monongalia (1,253) and Ritchie (1,176).

continue to the next page

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Gene and Roseanna Hines



Sam Saunders brought in a gun 10 point. Photo courtesy Of Tri-County Sports in Pt. Pleasant.

Feb. 2012 ~ Page 4

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**Muzzleloader Deer Season**

The 2011 muzzleloader harvest of 7,290 was 13 percent more than the 2010 harvest of 6,476, six percent below the five-year average of 7,772. The top ten counties are: Jackson (358), Braxton (345), Mason (320), Lewis (293), Preston (288), Wood (246), Randolph (238), Monongalia (232), Upshur (227) and Harrison (223).

**Archery Deer Season**

The bow hunters take of 26,136 deer was 19 percent above the 2010 harvest of 21,962, three percent below the five-year average harvest of 26,919. The top ten counties are: Preston (1,207), Kanawha (878), Nicholas (874), Raleigh (807), Fayette (802), Monongalia (782), Wyoming (771), Mason (750), Upshur (733), and Greenbrier (732).



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Mike Wilson, from Arnoldsburg, shot a good 11 point.



Curtis Parker went to Wayne County for his 10 point.

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# Hunting Ruffed Grouse

Ruffed Grouse are the king of all game birds, and sometimes (I mean most of the time) the most challenging. So here are a few tips and techniques that I use and that work well for me.

In order to hunt grouse, you need a place that holds birds. Ruffed Grouse like moist, dark places with little ground cover (like grass), but low overhead cover. I hunt areas here in the Pacific Northwest that are mixed timber and brush along creek bottoms. Grouse need food, and mostly live on buds and berries, but also feed on bugs and clover. Food sources differ from area to area, but grouse typically eat the same things everywhere. What I've seen where I hunt is that grouse change their diet as the seasons

change.

The wooded area I hunt is dry, so the presence of water makes a

big difference. I like creek bottoms with mixed old growth and re-prod, continue to the next page



Dan Hayes brought in a 7 point buck. Photo courtesy of WV Wild Outdoors in Hico.



This hunter had a nice bow kill buck. Photo courtesy of Jason's Country Corner in Saulsville.

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and a road close by for grit.

Early in the season, you will find the birds in family groups or coveys. As season and winter progress, the groups break up and you will find birds mostly in singles



Larry Vucelich hunted in Ohio for this 8 point buck.

and pairs. Early season birds hold pretty tightly here where I hunt, but I've been told it isn't like that everywhere.

Ruffed grouse have a daily routine, so you can pattern them. They normally get up late and fly into a feeding area or along a road to pick gravel. Then it's off to loafing and dusting the afternoon away. In the evening, they will go back to feeding, and usually roost around the same area.

Before season, I drive roads looking for new spots and checking old ones. Early in the morning or late in the evening, you can find grouse in the roads picking gravel. I mark these spots and come back during season to hunt the areas around them. Even if I hunt an area but

don't find birds, I'll come back a different time to check again if everything the grouse need is there.

When hunting grouse, I use a dog that has a really good nose and hunts from close to medium range.



Ryan Mitchell shot a 9 point in Ritchie County.

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## Fall Turkey Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Preliminary figures for the 2011 fall turkey hunting season show a harvest of 1,172 turkeys, according to Paul Johansen, assistant chief in charge of game management for the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The 2011 harvest was four percent higher than the 1,126 birds checked in during the 2010 fall season.

“Fall wild turkey harvests are highly influenced by annual reproduction and hard mast conditions,” stated Johansen. “The reduced acorn crop of 2011 had birds more concentrated around specific food sources and easier to harvest than in 2010. Although there were six fewer counties open to fall hunting

in 2011, the harvest was slightly above the 2010 tally. Biologists had predicted that the harvest would be similar to higher because of the mast conditions and brood production and these predictions held true in 2011.”

Top counties for 2011 were Randolph (142), Greenbrier (91), Preston (76), Pocahontas (68) and Monroe (63).



Jeery DeWeese, from Charleston, shot a black bear.



Brain Schuck tagged a nice 8 point in Wood County.

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Sam Sutton, from Parkersburg, had been hunting this eventual 14 point since 2007.

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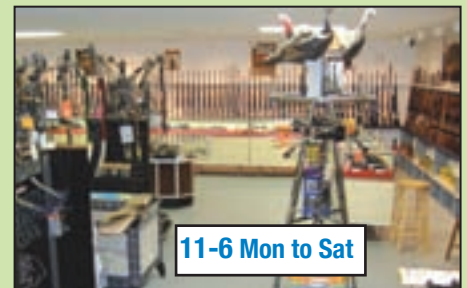
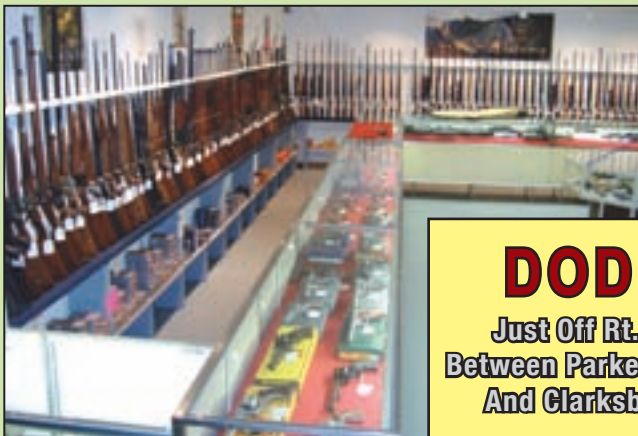
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Mail or Email your BIG BUCK photos. Form is on page 5. If you have sent one in and it is not in this issue, there will be buck photos for the next 2 months. We appreciate all of the photos sent in! 2011 was an outstanding year for HUGE RACKS in WV.



Walter Stalnaker gunned down a nice 9 point. Photo courtesy of Gladys Fork Archery in Weston.



Drew Groves used his bow for this tall racked 8 point. Photo courtesy of WV Wild Outdoors in Hico.



Ben Perrin used a gun for this wide-racked buck. Photo courtesy of MrClean Bow Shop in Stouts Mills.

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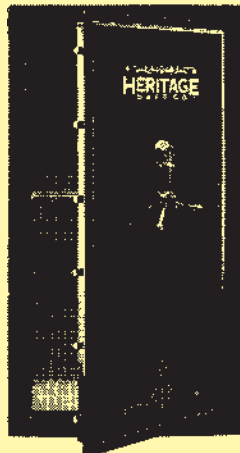
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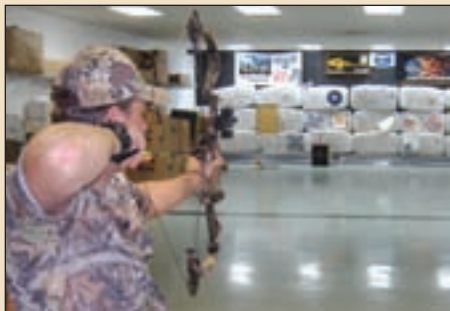
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## Deer/Vehicle Reduction Goal

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Two state agencies and an auto insurance company are collaborating to study deer/vehicle collisions in West Virginia and come up with ways to best reduce their occurrence. The long-term goal of the project is to identify the most effective mitigation technique at the lowest cost, according to Division of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Frank Jezioro and Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Paul Mattox.

Following a legislative audit in 2011, Director Jezioro contacted Secretary Mattox and suggested that their agencies work together to identify the most effective methods for possibly reducing deer-vehicle collisions in West Virginia. The State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance Company, the nation's largest auto insurer, has provided a major funding source for the study.

The DOT and the DNR are preparing to release a Request for Proposals to hire an independent contractor to begin the initial phase.



Brendan Vucleich was robbed! His buck was spotted the day before with a full rack. This was taken on Jan. 8 in Ohio muzzleloader.

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The first phase will include review of mitigation techniques that have

been used throughout the country continue to the next page

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in efforts to reduce deer/vehicle collisions, conduct a cost/benefit analysis of these techniques and evaluate their potential for use in West Virginia.

This effort will also evaluate deer/vehicle collision data already collected by the DOT, DNR and other agencies with a goal of identifying "hot spots" for these incidents in the state. These "hot spots" would serve as potential locations where appropriate mitigation techniques could be applied and tested during the second phase of the study to reduce deer/vehicle collisions and provide the largest benefit to West Virginians.

"I am especially pleased to note that State Farm Insurance is contributing \$50,000 in support of this project," said Director Jezioro. "Both the DNR and the DOT are excited to partner with State Farm on this effort designed to explore options for reducing deer/vehicle collisions in West Virginia. State Farm has tracked deer/vehicle collisions across the United States for years and was very willing to be part of the solution in helping reduce this problem in West Virginia."

"I am thankful for the efforts of our partners in this study, the Division of Natural Resources and State Farm Insurance," said DOT Secretary Mattox. "I hope that study rec-

continue to the next page

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Doug Church landed a couple of muskies. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Norman Piner had success with this buck. Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson

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## Lake Russell Fishing Event

The 15th annual Wright's Riverside Marine Georgia bass tournament was attended by 44 fishermen. Cabins were rented in Elberton, Georgia. Two man teams compete for fun and money.

With three practice days and four days of tournament, anglers have plenty of opportunities to land numerous bass. The main tournament lasts for four days with the combined weight determining the places paid.

This years event was won again by the hosts - Dan Schneider and Dan Holdren. Their four day weight was 48.53 pounds.

Second place belonged to Ford & Bud Rose with 40.59 pounds. Third place was Terry and Mike Muldrew. John Kyle and Lewis Wilson finished fourth.

Teams travel from West Virginia and Ohio to compete in this annual fun event.

The teams are pictured on the top right.



George Casto used a bow for this 72" grass carp. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.



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ommendations will be implemented to reduce deer-vehicle collisions and make our roads and highways safer for the travelling public.”

Deer-vehicle collisions across the United States, including West Virginia, are a significant transportation safety problem. Deer-vehicle collisions account for a large amount of economic damage and can pose a safety hazard, especially on major highways with higher posted speed limits.

“West Virginia is one of several states where an individual driver is most likely to run into a deer,” said State Farm Public Affairs Specialist Erin Bailey. “Our hope is that this project will help reduce those statistics and provide some mitigation for deer-vehicle collisions. State Farm has had a long history of supporting auto safety, and this collaboration with the WVDNR and WVDOT is one more way to protect our customers and those

continue to the next page

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Gary Griffin shot a buck with a tall rack. *Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.*



Jaret Mullooly used a gun for this 9 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Gladly Fork Archery in Weston.*

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traveling on our West Virginia roads.”

Deer-vehicle collisions in West Virginia have been stabilized or reduced in many areas of the state during the past decade; however, the agencies hope to further reduce the number of incidents.


“A number of factors besides the size of the deer population can affect the rate of deer/vehicle collisions within a state or area,” said Director Jezioro. “It is necessary to determine which mitigation methods use correct scientific methodology to achieve meaningful results. The elimination of all deer-vehicle collisions in West Virginia is an unrealistic goal. However, we hope to reduce these collisions, especially in areas of higher posted speed limits. Effective mitigation techniques should be cost effective and produce long lasting results.”



Jackson Petty, from Vienna, shot his first buck - 7 point.

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Scott Sole bagged a Tyler County 10 point.



Shane Dotson went to Ritchie County for this 10 point.

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**Entry Forms Will Be Printed Soon**



Brian Self bagged a big buck.



Don Radcliff got a large buck.  
*Photo courtesy of Bow-Listic Archery in Chelyan.*



Carl Craddock went to Clahoun County for this 10 point.. *Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.*



Bill Fore shot a quality buck. *Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.*



Young Mychael Boogs shot a big rack buck.. *Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.*

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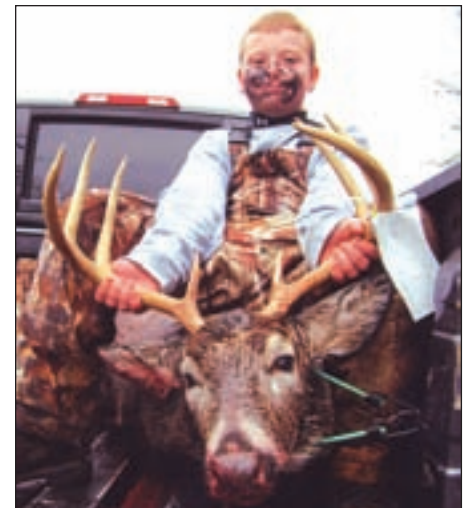
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Laura Wagner's first deer was a real brute. She bagged this 11 point in Summers County.



Seth McIntyre, from Lumberport, used a gun for this big 8 point..



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Roger Smith brought in a nice 9 point. Photo courtesy of Reese's Country Store in Deerwalk.



Ralph Seebaugh bagged a nice 9 point in Wood County.



Jake Boytek, from Chapmanville, used a bow in Logan County for this 10 point that grossed 148.

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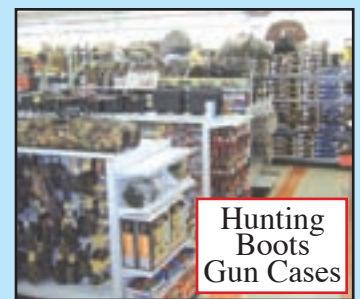
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Phil Daniel harvested a nice 9 point. Photo courtesy of Great Outdoors Marine in Lavalette.



Anthony Cochran went to Ohio for this great buck.



Chuck Mills caught and released this 46" Little Kanawha River musky. Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.



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## Gerald Swindle - Winter Bass

During most of the year, a simple rule influences bass fishing: Find the bait, and you'll find the fish. Winter throws a knot in that line by making it much tougher to locate the chow. Without a definitive game plan, cold days can turn into a whole lot of looking with not a whole lot of fishing.

“It gets a lot harder to follow the bait in the wintertime,” says Alabama pro Gerald Swindle. “This is the hardest time of year to follow the schools.” Granted, baitfish numbers expand greatly once warm weather returns, but there's still plenty of finned forage to be found in the year's first quarter.

For Swindle, it's all about dialing in the spots where baitfish will feel most comfortable. In reservoirs, his prime winter targets are the bottoms of creek channels. Anywhere

he finds a creek dumping into the main channel, Swindle expects to find bait gathered at the lowest point of that drop.

On warm days, baitfish may move up to the shallow channel edges, but the rest of the time, they're hanging low. Oneae jigging spoon (silver for sunny days, white for cloudy) fished on 12-pound Vicious fluorocarbon. More often, though,

continue to the next page

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Kevin Smith went to Virginia for this big 7 point.



Mr. Robinson bagged a large buck. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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he'll stick a green pumpkin Zoom finesse worm on a 1/4-ounce shaky head and fish it on 8-pound fluoro. "I'll just drop it right down in them and just use my boat to move it," Swindle says. "I just barely shake the rod tip, and I'll turn my trolling motor on low and move around looking for fish and dragging that shaky head under the boat.

"Remember, at this time of year, less is more. The smaller the bait and the less you work that bait, the more fish you're going to catch." In lakes with no defined river channel, Swindle expects to find the baitfish in the bottoms of deep rocky pockets. Typically, the forage will establish a comfortable depth range that will remain consistent through most of the lake. During sunny periods, the bait will adjust their depth by moving toward or away from the

shore, rather than higher or lower in the water column. "You can take your depthfinder and pattern those fish," Swindle says. "If you find them in 30 feet in one pocket, when you go to the next pocket, you can bet they'll be in 30 feet. If you get a warm, pretty day, just follow the shad farther into the pocket."




In this scenario, Swindle drops down to a 1/4-ounce spoon. In exceptionally clear water, he'll fit his spoon with a white or chartreuse bucktail for a more enticing package. For the shaky head approach, he replaces the finesse worm with a Zoom Critter Craw in green pumpkin or pumpkinseed. "A lot of times, I'm around a big school



Ben Bush, from Ripley, caught a nice largemouth bass.

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of bait, and the bass bite that craw as good as they'll bite anything," Swindle says.

Speaking of crawfish, the real mudbugs create an alternative to hunting winter bait schools. As  
continue to the next page



Seth Barnhart, from St. Marys, brought in a prime grey fox.

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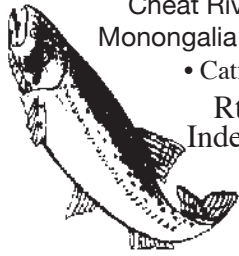
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Swindle notes, sometimes the best bait you can find is the bait you can't see. "When everyone else is looking for bait on their depth-finder, if you get any sun on those clay banks, those crawfish will start poking their heads out," he said.

Swindle takes advantage of this situation by flipping a 3/8-ounce

Arkie Jig with a green pumpkin Zoom twin tail. When the water drops below 50, he'll go with a Critter Craw trailer, as this bait's minimal action makes a better fit in the chilly stuff. If bass spit up their recent crustacean meals, Swindle notes the color and size for clues on trailer selection and jig modification. "If they spit up smaller crawfish, you can keep your skirt trimmed a little tighter. But if you catch a big 4-pounder, don't be

afraid to put a big trailer on that jig.

"Just pay attention to what they're spitting up, and that will teach you how to trim that jig." Even when the bait and bass cooperate, winter fishing is still winter fishing, and contending with the elements can become the day's toughest challenge.

continue to the next page



Cory Wratchford, from Ravenswood, shot a 5 point.



A big winter smallmouth was caught. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.



Mark Mitchell bagged an 8 point in Ritchie County.

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Comfort is one thing, but then there's the fundamental principle of performance. Swindle's in no hurry to sacrifice either. "The biggest thing you fight in the winter-time is staying warm," he says. "Guys lose feeling in their hands, and if you can't feel your hands, 90 percent of the time you can't feel the fish.

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Pleased to meet you too! Jenny Hartsaw, from St. Albans, is very happy with her trophy 8 point bow kill.

**New Senior  
Lifetime License**

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The new Senior Lifetime Hunting, Trapping and Fishing License, which becomes effective January 1, 2012, is now available for purchase, according to DNR Director Frank Jezioro. The one-time fee for the Class XS License is \$25.

"Hunters and anglers can buy the license in person at the DNR South Charleston headquarters or they can obtain a form at any license agent or DNR district office and send it in to our headquarters," said Jezioro. "I want to emphasize that the license will not be required for our hunters and anglers who turn

continue to the next page




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Details On Page 3

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65 before January 1, 2012 or those who already have a lifetime license. In addition, it will not change the existing privileges of our senior landowners.”

Purchase of the Senior Lifetime License will allow seniors to hunt for small game, turkey and bear, and for deer during the archery, youth, buck-gun and muzzleloader seasons. License holders will also be able to fish for both trout and warmwater fish, as well as trap furbearing animals. Seniors, other than landowners hunting on their own land, will still have to buy the required stamps to hunt during the antlerless deer seasons or to harvest additional deer.

“In approving the legislation, the legislature added the opportunity for Class XS license holders to hunt during the annual Special Split Youth and Class Q seasons,” Jezioro said. “Seniors who turn 65 before January 1, 2012, who wish to hunt during those seasons starting in 2012, would be able to buy the Senior Lifetime License.”

Jeziro emphasizes that the Class XS License can be bought no soon-  
continue to the next page



Joe Meadows shot a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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Bub Hafer has a great 11 point and William Stalnaker shot a big 8 point .

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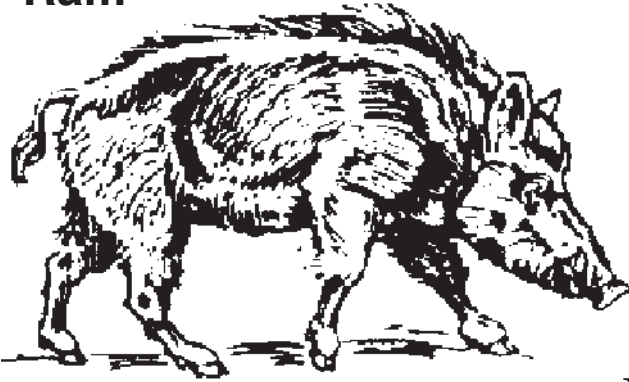
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er than 90 days before an individual's 65th birthday and that the license is not valid until their actual birth date.

The West Virginia Legislature established the new lifetime license to permit the DNR to capture tax money which West Virginia seniors were already spending on hunting and fishing equipment. Jezioro explained, "Hunters pay a tax on hunting and fishing equipment which is given back to the states based partially on the number of licensed hunters and anglers. In the past, when our seniors became 65 and no longer had to buy a license, we could no longer count them as a license buyer. As a result, that reduced our apportionment of the taxes that they were spending on new equipment and ammunition.

"We estimate that the license fee itself will bring in approximately \$150,000 in 2012 and should increase in future years. In addition, we believe we will capture about \$31,500 of funds from the federal government that our hunters and anglers already spend on sporting equipment and ammunition, an amount that will also increase in the future."

By law, the money the DNR receives must be spent only for fish and wildlife management efforts. Jezioro said, "We plan to spend the additional money for additional access for the mobility-impaired hunter, improvements to and operation of the state's fish stocking program, and construction of additional shooting ranges. These programs will benefit our senior

sportsmen."



Craig Kirkham caught 2 brown trout in Monroe County.

**Advertise in the W. Va. Sportsman Details on page 3**



# 11th ANNUAL SUMMER BASH 2012

\$100.00  
donation  
per Ticket

Held at the Legendary Pennsboro Speedway in Pennsboro, West Virginia  
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TIME	PRIZE
NOON - 2012 6-3 Pontoon 188 Cruise	
12:05 - \$3,000.00	
12:10 - Weatherby MKV SPRT	
12:15 - \$2,500.00	
12:20 - Remington 700 BDL	
12:25 - \$2,000.00	
12:30 - \$4,000.00	
12:35 - Ruger 77 HAWK	
12:40 - \$2,000.00	
12:45 - \$2,500.00	
12:50 - REM 700 CDL SF	
12:55 - \$2,500.00	
1:00 - 2012 Lincoln MKZ	
1:05 - Beretta AL 391	
1:10 - Winchester 70 FW	
1:15 - \$4,000.00	
1:20 - T/C PRO HNTR	
1:25 - \$3,000.00	
1:30 - 2012 800 x P Ranger	
1:35 - Ruger Red Label	
1:40 - Remington S SFII	
1:45 - \$3,000.00	
1:50 - Remington 700 BDL	
1:55 - \$2,500.00	
2:00 - 2012 Jeep Wrangler Sahara SUV	
2:05 - Ruger 77 HAWK	
2:10 - \$2,500.00	
2:15 - \$2,000.00	
2:20 - Browning MAXUS HCS	
2:25 - \$3,000.00	
2:30 - 2012 Harley Davidson Softail	
2:35 - Winchester 70 FW	
2:40 - Beretta 391 XT CAMO	
2:45 - \$2,500.00	
2:50 - Weatherby MKV SPRT	
2:55 - \$2,500.00	
3:00 - 2012 Ford 4x4 RPTR S/Crew-145	
3:05 - Remington S SFII	
3:10 - Browning X-Bolt Medallion	
3:15 - \$3,000.00	
3:20 - Remington 700 CDL	
3:25 - \$2,000.00	
3:30 - 2012 Camper	
3:35 - \$2,500.00	
3:40 - Winchester 70 FW	
3:45 - \$2,000.00	

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**EARLY BIRD 1**  
20 Additional Chances of \$500.00 for 2012 Summer Bash ORIGINAL ticket stubs returned to the Ellenboro VFD by Noon on Saturday, March 31, 2012

**EARLY BIRD 2**  
16 Additional Chances of \$500.00 and 2 Chances of \$1,000.00 for 2012 Summer Bash ORIGINAL ticket stubs returned to the Ellenboro VFD by Noon on Saturday, May 26, 2012

TIME	PRIZE
3:50 - Remington 700 BDL	
3:55 - Ruger Red Label	
4:00 - 2012 GMC Sierra 1500 SLE 4 x 4	
4:05 - Weatherby MKV SPRT	
4:10 - Ruger #1 A	
4:15 - \$3,500.00	
4:20 - Ruger 77 HAWK	
4:25 - \$2,500.00	
4:30 - 2012 RZR 4-Seat L/E P/S	
4:35 - Remington Seven CDL	
4:40 - Browning X-Bolt Medallion	
4:45 - \$2,500.00	
4:50 - Browning MAXUS HCS	
4:55 - \$2,000.00	
5:00 - 2012 Ford Taurus Limited AWD	
5:05 - Ruger #1 A	
5:10 - Remington Seven CDL	
5:15 - \$3,500.00	
5:20 - Winchester 70 FW	
5:25 - \$2,000.00	
5:30 - 2012 Stratos 176 XT Bass Boat	
5:35 - \$2,500.00	
5:40 - T/C PRO HNTR SHT	
5:45 - \$2,500.00	
5:50 - Remington 700 CDL	
5:55 - Ruger Red Label	
6:00 - 2012 Cadillac SRX FWD	
6:05 - Remington 700 BDL	
6:10 - Ruger 77 HAWK	
6:15 - \$2,500.00	
6:20 - Remington S SFII	
6:25 - \$3,000.00	
6:30 - 2012 Harley Davidson Road King	
6:35 - \$3,000.00	
6:40 - \$3,500.00	
6:45 - \$4,000.00	
6:50 - \$4,500.00	
6:55 - \$5,000.00	
7:00 - Ten (10) - \$1,000.00 Winners (Match WV Daily 3 - Last 3 #'s of Ticket #)	
7:00 - \$100,000.00 (Match WV Daily 4 Exactly)	



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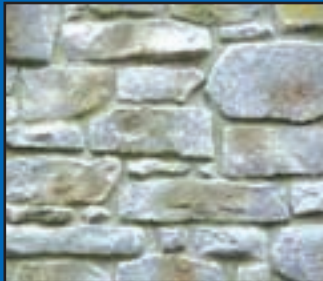
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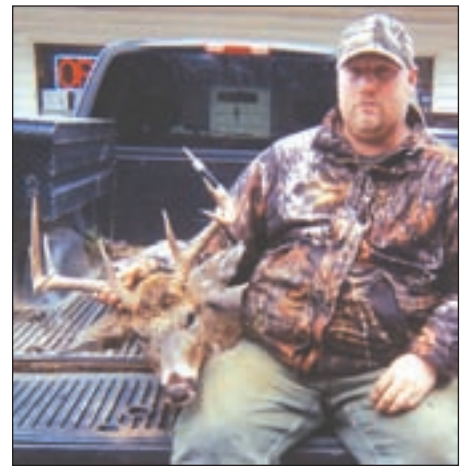
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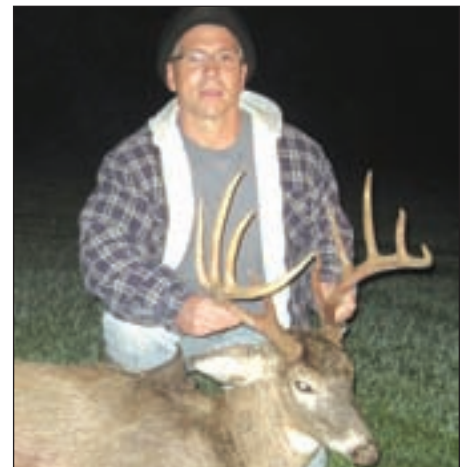
**Route 3**  
**NIMITZ, WV**  
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Tim Payton, from Belleville, blasted a massive 10 point in Wood Co.



Randall Riffle brought in a nice 10 point buck. Photo courtesy of Tri-Lakes in Walkersville.



Rick Johnson, from Walkersville, shot a big 10 point buck.

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Kevin used a bow for this buck.  
 Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sport-  
 ing Goods in Elkins.

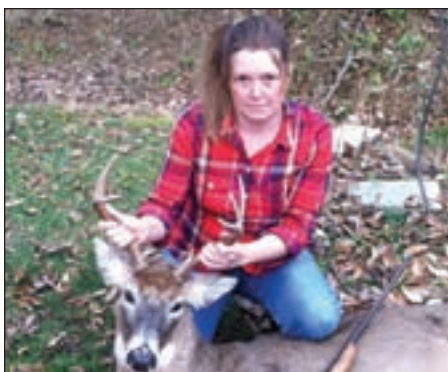


Brandon Bleigh bagged a big buck.  
 Photo courtesy of Tri-Lakes in Walkers-  
 ville.

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Tracy Lott shot an 8 point buck.



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Dezman Pierson blasted a big black  
 bear in Fayette County.



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Matt Lynch used a bow for this big 13 pointer. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Cody Stalnaker tied for 1st at Jerry's buck contest with this 13 point.

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## Tygart Lake Open Year Round Now

GRAFTON, W.Va. – Tygart Lake State Park lodge and restaurant will no longer close during the winter and now will be a year-round operation. According to Paul Redford, a district administrator with the West Virginia State Parks system, the decision to keep the lodge and restaurant open at Tygart Lake is due to not only the popularity of the park restaurant operated by the Boston Beanery, but also because of the number of calls requesting rooms during the time it has been historically closed for the season.

“The restaurant’s success, as well as business we’ve turned away, warrants a two-year assessment



Stan Seckman shot a 32” carp with a bow on the Ohio River.

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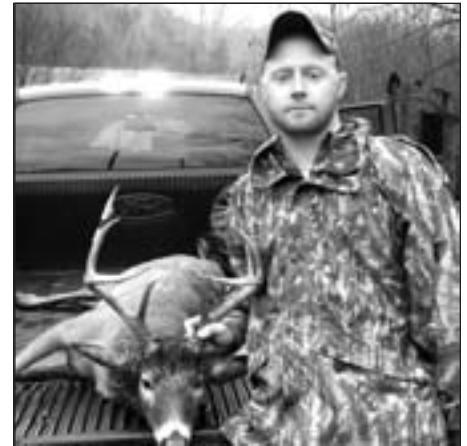
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### GAME CHECKING

for year-round operation,” Redford explained. “We think the positives far out-weigh any challenges that would arise with keeping the lodge open during the winter months. We’ll reassess the success of year-round operations in 2014. Begin-  
continue to the next page



Chad Taylor brought in a good buck.



David McMillan shot a nice buck.  
Photo courtesy of WV Wild Outdoors in Hico.

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ning January 1, this will be the first time in memory that Tygart Lake Lodge and restaurant will be open for business winter and year-round. The park's cabins and campground are open from mid-April and closed during the winter months."

The Boston Beanery became the food service managers at Tygart Lake State Park Lodge in 2010. Featuring a wide variety of menu options not readily available in the Grafton area, the parking lot quickly yielded to an overflow parking situation that resulted in some unexpectedly positive growing-pains. Restaurant managers are not surprised at the immediate success. "We offer good food, great selections and a lake view that can't be



LJ McCue enjoyed his deer season

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beat in our area," said Ken Cole, CEO of the Boston Hospitality continue to the next page



Nick Weimer shot a big 11 point. Photo courtesy of Jerry's in Horner.



Jason Conrad, from Ona, hooked a 22 pound flathead.

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A variety of winter activities and events are already planned. A New Year's Eve Dinner/Dance December 31, 2011; and a February 11 Valentine Dinner/Dance both offer overnight packages. A Valentine Dinner and Evening is planned for February 14, 2012.

To learn more about Tygart Lake State Park or overnight lodge reservations, meeting or restaurant information, visit [www.tygartlake.com](http://www.tygartlake.com) or call 304-265-6144.



Bob O'Dell, from Mineralwells, caught an alligator gar in Florida.

**Fall Wild Turkey Harvest**

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Preliminary figures for the 2011 fall turkey hunting season show a harvest of 1,172 turkeys, according to Paul Johansen, assistant chief in charge of game management for the Wildlife Resources Section of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The 2011 harvest was four percent higher than the 1,126 birds checked in during the 2010 fall season.

“Fall wild turkey harvests are highly influenced by annual reproduction and hard mast conditions,” stated Johansen. “The reduced acorn crop of 2011 had birds more concentrated around specific food sources and easier to harvest than



Rodney Williams, from Ravenswood, shot a nice 8 point.

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in 2010. Although there were six fewer counties open to fall hunting in 2011, the harvest was slightly above the 2010 tally. Biologists had predicted that the harvest would be similar to higher because of the mast conditions and brood production and these predictions held true in 2011.”

Top counties for 2011 were Randolph (142), Greenbrier (91), Preston (76), Pocahontas (68) and Monroe (63).

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## Fall Black Bear Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia hunters harvested 2,007 black bears during the combined 2011 archery and firearms seasons, according to Paul Johansen, assistant chief in charge of game management for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources. The preliminary harvest data for the combined 2011 seasons was 16 percent lower than the record harvest of 2,392 established in 2010. The 2011 black bear harvest is the third highest in West Virginia history.

“As predicted in the 2011 Mast Survey and Hunting Outlook bro-

chure, mast conditions had a tremendous influence on the distribution of this year’s bear harvest,” said Johansen. “Lower mast availability in 2011 allowed archers to pattern bears more effectively and led to an increased archery harvest. However, a shortage of fall foods drives bears to den earlier, which leads to a lower firearms harvest in

the traditional December season. The firearm harvest for bears remained steady compared to previous years because of the early firearms seasons. These early seasons

continue to the next page



Chuck Mills hooked a 37 1/2 pound drum. Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.



Frank Jones shot a good buck. Photo courtesy of Waterfront Sporting Goods in Alderson.

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are designed to ensure that counties remain at their management goal.”

Hunters took 619 bears during the 2011 archery season. The top five



Eddie Ramsey Jr has a huge buck.



Marley Jo Young bagged a nice 7 point buck in Mason County.



Jerry Meadows, from West Hamlin, brought in a 13 point.

counties were Randolph (70), Preston (56), Nicholas (44), Webster (41) and Wyoming (34).

Firearm hunters harvested 1,388 bears during 2011. Hunters took 631 bears in September, 76 during the concurrent buck/bear season, and 681 during the traditional De-

ember season. Top five counties were Randolph (148), Greenbrier (141), Pendleton (132), Pocahontas (112) and Webster (110).

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



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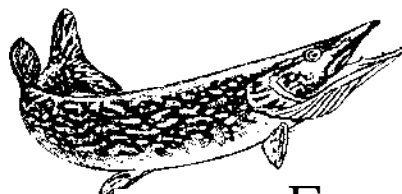
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