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Issue 240

Sept/Oct 2014



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Magazine

Volume 1 Issue 240

Publisher and Editor
Mark A. Goudy

Contributing Editors
West Virginia Division Of
Natural Resources

No Subscriptions Offered

Printed Every Six Weeks.

W.Va. Sportsman

P.O. Box 5521
Vienna, WV 26105

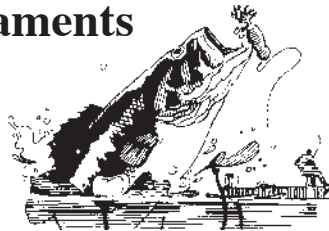
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Cover Photo

Stonewall Jackson Lake opened up for catch & keep this year. Some bass tournaments were offered to tournament directors.

Tony Crumblis, from Bridgeport, landed the big bass of the two day tournament held on Sept. 13/14. The 6 pound, 5 oz. (on the right) along with one over 5 pounds (on the left) propelled his team - partner Gary Ross - to 1st place.

They had a two day total of 44 pounds, 10 oz. There was a 6 fish limit each day.

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Nine Archery Tips

Archery Tips 1: Archery can be fun!

Getting uptight? Want to do better? Did you just shoot a lousy shot? If you can't get over mistakes, the next arrow is going to be another one. If you can't adopt the right attitude when you're doing archery,



Tommy Lantz brought in a 37 pound flathead. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

how do you think you can be shooting at top form? Do not lose faith after some bad shoot, Just think shooting as a mental and physical practice. This is major advice to all people doing archery: ease up and have a good time! Relaxing and 'getting over it' will help you prepare yourself for the next shot. Relax and clear your mind before you take a shot. A great way to do this is to inhale deeply as you're about to aim, followed by one last big breath, and let it out gradually right before releasing the bowstring. A deep breath will calm your nerves and allow you to aim better.

Archery Tips 2: Achieve balance for proper follow through.

People usually forget that the bow arm needs to counter the pulling arm. Everyone is focusing on pulling the string back and forgetting that you need to have a similar tension on the other arm or the forces on your skeletal structure will not

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equate. Without the proper balance, when you release that shot, you jerk and you flinch. What you need to do is achieve balance by working both your pulling and pushing arms. Understand that without balance, additional forces will show themselves when you release that string. If you're doing it right, the bow falls toward the target and the drawing fingers slide across your neck EFFORTLESSLY. Don't hurry or hasten this process. It comes

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when everything falls in place and follows a natural rhythm. Archery Tips 3: Work on strong mental visualization.

All high level national athletes engage in mental visualization. No one who doesn't do it will be able to achieve that similar standard. The summary of that is that visualization starts with the decision to do whatever it takes to reach your outcome. You then use tools to recreate a mental space for top performance. This helps to ground your performance to the form you have set out for yourself. After some perfect shots, you can chose a physical stimulant to associate that perfect shot feeling with. For example, touch your thumb, index, and middle fingers together (sort of how you would hold a pencil) after each of these perfect shots as a physical trigger to help associate and anchor that feeling. It may need one month for you to achieve the mental visualization.



A nice catfish was reeled in by this young lady. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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Archery Tips 4: Know when to call it a day.

Your bow is a high performance machine. You are not. It's better to know how to call it a day when you've had enough. When your muscles flag, when you're distractable, when you're grumpy or hungry. Stop shooting! Practice is only good if you're practicing with good form, and able to replicate the exact form again and again.

Archery Tips 5: Treestand Technique

When people miss from a treestand, they often miss high. There are two reasons. First, the deer itself may "jump the string." Almost all of them drop at least a little, some drop a lot. Second, some archers lower their bow arm instead of bending at the waist to create the downward shot angle. This also

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tends to produce high hits because it changes the relationship between the bow arm and the upper body and thus between the bow and the eye.

Archery Tips 6: Focus on your own archery.

Archery is about preparation. It is about helping you achieve what you need for best performance. Getting distracted will not help you. Caring for others will not help anyone. Is your equipment in order? Have you checked the straightness of all your arrows? Do you know exactly what is in your case? Any spares? Rain gear? Hat? Sunblock? You basically owe it to yourself to manage everything pertinent to YOUR archery. Not to do so is to be irresponsible.

Archery Tips 7: Practice

Practice is exceptionally important because it allows you to put



Steve Casto caught a 7 1/2 pound bass at Sutton Lake.



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in use everything you learned to perfect your technique. You can search for all the tips you want, but if you don't practice them, and you don't consistently do it, then your abilities will not advance. There is much more to archery form and technique, and there are more aspects of archery that come into play when in the field, but these archery tips will go a long way in helping you improve your skills and precision.

Archery Tips 8: Decide to win.

That should be the only thing driving you. I read somewhere about how the shot is influenced by the stakes. Shoot for nothing, and you shoot properly. Introduce money into the game, and you're shooting for small change. Put a million dollars and then you're clamping your mind around that dollar figure. No. When you shoot, you should just shoot to win. It doesn't matter if you have just been placed last and have lost. Your attitude must be a winning attitude. Like I mentioned before, all the other archers are dy-

ing to win. They want to be number one. If you don't have that hunger, what chance do you have? Don't aim for second place. Go for the top spot. Believe in yourself!

Archery Tips 9: There is no big secret to archery. There is no killer app.

Don't obsess about any one thing. There is no one secret to a great archery: it is a combination of everything. Good equipment. Good training. Good coaching. Good mindset. Good conditions. Talk to good archers. You'll find they'll tell you different things. Why? Because what works for someone will not work for you. Think about the best basketball player, they're all different. Kobe is different with Jordan, and O'Neal is different with Nowitzki. The only same secret is that they know they're unique, and they learn from others. You need to figure out how best to put it together and find out your own secrets.

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Smallmouths In The Weeds

A lot of anglers equate smallmouths with rock and gravel bottoms in the summer, but they shouldn't overlook weeds. Depending on the time of year and available forage, smallmouths will feed in vegetation just as heavily as largemouths. One difference is that smallmouths won't necessarily be buried up in it like largemouths sometimes will be. They might just cruise the edges between weed beds and deeper water, so you don't have to pick apart the weeds like you would with largemouths, and you can cover a bunch of water faster.

Lure selection depends on weed type: reeds, milfoil, lily pads or whatever. Typically, I might start with a topwater, frog, spinnerbait, Fluke, jerkbait or vibrating jig. If

that doesn't work, I'll go to finesse tactics: drop-shot rigs, small hair jigs or downsized skirted jigs. The clarity of the water plays a role, too, in lure selection. If the water is su-



Larry Adkins Jr. hooked a nice smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*

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per-clear and the weed beds extend into deeper water, you might want to go with lures that allow you to cover that depth. Sometimes it requires more of a vertical approach rather than a horizontal one. Whether the water is 15 feet deep or 3 feet deep, though, smallmouths like to hang out around weed beds or scattered, isolated patches. Don't pass them up.

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Danny Frazier reeled in a 40" New River musky. *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.*



Josh Murray, from Washington, caught an unusual paddletfish at the Belleville Dam on the Ohio River. They must be released.

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Colt Corder had success with a farm pond largemouth. *Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.*

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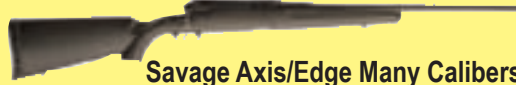
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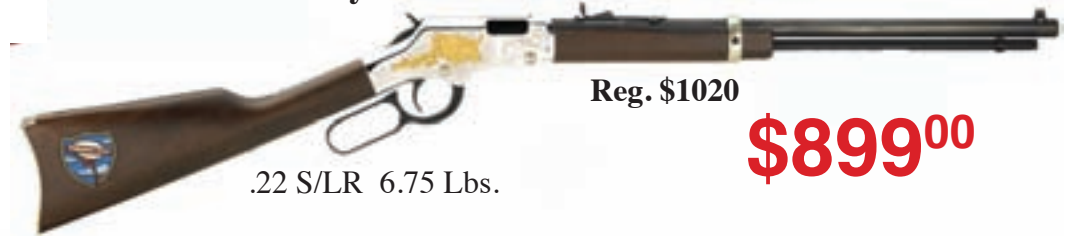
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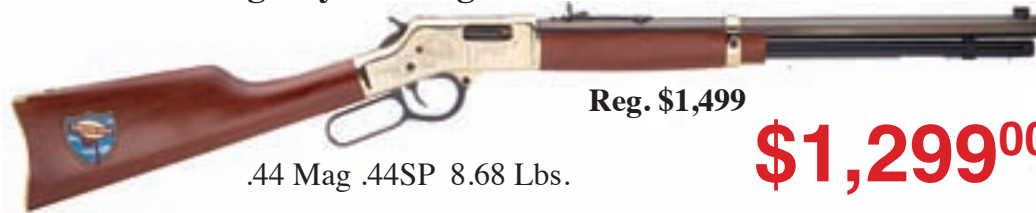
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Briar O'Dell landed a largemouth bass. Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.

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Barbara Vanoy, from Charleston, hooked a nice smallmouth bass.



Randy King, from Dunbar, caught a 5 pound, 6 oz. rainbow trout.

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Youth Challenge At Stonewall Jackson Park

ROANOKE, West Virginia – For several years, the Outdoor Youth Challenge has been one of the biggest attractions during West Virginia’s Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day, held annually at Stonewall Resort State Park near Weston in Lewis County. This hands-on event focuses on getting children ages 6 to 18 involved in many different outdoor sports and

features one-on-one instruction in many of its events.

This year’s Outdoor Youth Challenge will run Sept. 27 and 28 from 9 a.m. till 4 p.m. each day. Those interested in participating should come to the Outdoor Youth Challenge Registration tent located alongside the Stonewall Resort State Park headquarters building.

“The Outdoor Youth Challenge gives youth the opportunity to participate in more than 20 different events,” said Krista Snodgrass of the Wildlife Resources Section of

the Division of Natural Resources (DNR). “Some of the activities include .22 rifle, muzzleloader, shotgun and archery shooting; fishing rod casting; and animal and plant identification. When they sign up at the registration tent they will receive a Youth Challenge card and a T-shirt, and they will be instructed on how to proceed.”

As youth participants complete the events in which they choose to participate, they will get signatures from the people running those

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Aaron Brand, from Parkersburg, hooked a 5 pound largemouth.

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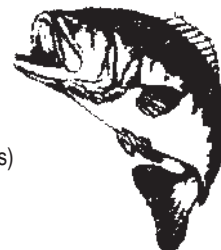
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events. Youth who complete the Outdoor Youth Challenge by doing at least 10 of the events will be eligible for prizes at the end of the day. These prizes include lifetime hunting and fishing licenses (one per day), conservation camp scholarships (for the participant who has the highest score on the scored events) and many other prizes that are related to hunting, fishing, trapping and boating.

West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day is jointly sponsored by DNR and the West Virginia Wildlife Federation. CONSOL Energy is again a major financial contributor this year. CONSOL has made a priority of supporting youth-related causes, especially the Outdoor Youth Challenge.

The National Rifle Association (NRA) also is a significant financial contributor this year, as it has been in the past.



Joe Ingram, from Beckley, landed a 23 1/2" largemouth bass.

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"It was the NRA's support of the Outdoor Youth Challenge in its early years that got the event off the ground and made it possible," Snodgrass said.

Other local businesses and groups also come together to help make the event possible. Local sporting goods stores like McFly Outdoors and Dick's Sporting Goods help with getting the prizes, and volunteers from many organizations contribute their time and expertise to help with the individual events, according to Snodgrass.

Some of the organizations involved include the West Virginia Bowhunters Association, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the West Virginia Muzzleloaders Association, and the West Virginia Hunter Education Association.

For more information on the Outdoor Youth Challenge and West

Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day, visit www.wvdnr.gov/hunting/nathunt-fish.shtm.



Keith Haught, from Reader, caught a 35 pound flathead catfish..



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Boggs & Williams weighed in a 4 pound, 7 oz. bass at the Sept. Stonewall Jackson tournament



Luke, Bill, Brian and Nathan Adkins caught a bunch of quality trout.

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Early Bear Season

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Hunters are reminded that a bear season with or without the use of dogs will take place in all or parts of 16 counties Sept. 18–20 and all of eight counties Oct. 4–10.

The counties or parts of counties open to bear hunting with or without dogs from Sept. 18–20 include: Barbour (east of state Route 92), Braxton (east of I–79), Clay (south of Elk River), Grant, Greenbrier, Hardy, Mineral (west of New Creek), Monroe (east of U.S. Route 219), Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Tucker, Upshur (east of state Route 20), and Webster.

The counties open for bear hunting with or without dogs Oct. 4–10 include; Boone, Fayette, Kanawha, Logan, McDowell, Mingo, Raleigh and Wyoming.

“Counties that will be open for early bear hunting are above their 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. “The benefit of early seasons is that all bears are available to be harvested because they won’t enter their dens for two more months.

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pear to be more abundant this year than in 2013,” Carpenter said. “This means bears will be scattered across the landscape. Hunters who focus their efforts in stands of black cherry, old apple orchards, or white oaks that have begun to drop acorns, however, should be able to find bruins.”

Successful hunters are encouraged to submit a premolar tooth from each harvested bear. Hunters
continue to the next page

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Ed Donaldson, from Coxs Mills, got a 44 pound flathead catfish.



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can get a bear tooth envelope at all official game checking stations.

In addition, hunters who harvest a female black bear are encouraged to save the reproductive tract or all of the entrails. Hunters with reproductive tracts or entrails should keep them cool or freeze them and contact their nearest DNR district office to arrange a pick-up.

Data obtained from tooth samples and reproductive tracts are used for black bear population monitoring. DNR personnel remind hunters to purchase their bear damage stamps as well as an appropriate hunting license. Details concerning bear hunting seasons can be found on pages 36-39 of the 2014-2015 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary.

Archery Distance Judging

If you ask any seasoned archer what their top challenges are, estimating yardage will invariably be near the top. Also, if you notice who is winning your local 3D tournaments and leagues as well as on the state and national level, you will notice they have one thing in common: excellent yardage judging skills. Of course you must also have a high level of skill in putting the sight where you want to hit and releasing so that the arrow hits the intended mark, but if you haven't picked the correct distance in the first place, it is all for naught.

When I first began my archery

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career in earnest, I became a fairly competent shot in a short amount of time, at least in my mind. I was on top of the world when I could go out and shoot and put every arrow in the 4 or 5 ring at 20 yards and thought that I had "made it" and was a full-blown shooter!

What a humbling experience it was the first time I stepped onto our local unmarked 3D range and proceeded to send arrows above and below the targets with alarming regularity. I had assumed

continue to the next page

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Iris McCallister landed a nice catfish. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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since I was decent enough of a distance judge to bring down ducks and pheasants with a shotgun, or shoot a deer with a rifle, that I was good to go with shooting arrows at unknown distances. Boy was I wrong!

I absolutely cannot stress enough the need to practice yardage judging if you hunt or shoot at unmarked distances. Especially in hunting situations, it is absolutely critical that you can accurately judge distances in order to make an accurate and ethical kill shot. My experience from talking to hunters is that a large portion of wounded animals is caused by improperly judging the distance to the intended target.

Not only must a bowhunter accurately judge yardage, but they also must often do it very quickly and under adverse conditions. It's one thing to be able to take your time with a target in plain view, with no obstacles in between and judge the yardage properly; it's completely another to have to look at a moving elk across a shadow filled ravine with the sun in your face.



This big bass was caught at the Kings of the Lakes tournament

If you want to be the best archer and/or bowhunter possible, want to make ethical kill shots and have the best chance of hitting that 12 ring, PRACTICE, PRACTICE then PRACTICE some more!

Yardage judging practice tips and hints

I have been fortunate to have been taught by several different people how to judge yardage using a va-

riety of methods. There are some people that are innately good at judging yardage; some bordering on near-laser beam accurate. However, I am not one of these people! Life has blessed (cursed!) me with the lack of a dominate eye and thus my depth perception is somewhat suspect at times and judging yardage is something that I have to work at.

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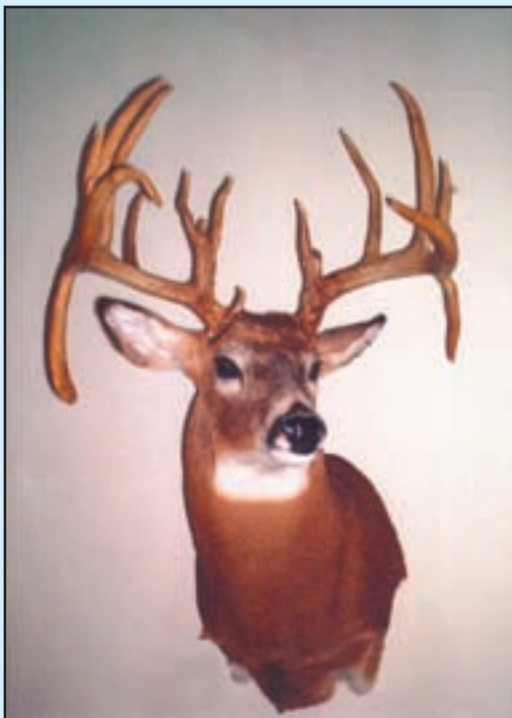
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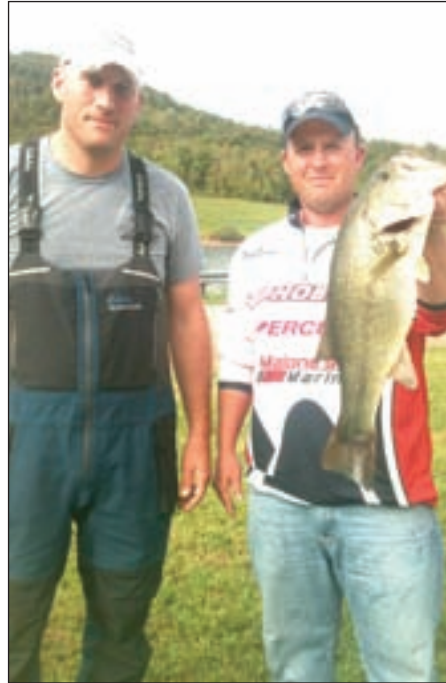
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Julie Adkins, from Rock View, hooked a 23" brown trout.



Tony Crumblis & Gary Ross won the September 2 day tournament at Stonewall Jackson Lake with a 22-12 & a 21-14 bag Their overall weight was 44-10. Travis Bennett & Matt Summers came in second with a 21-13 & a 17-5 weight, Their overall weight was 39-2. A 6 fish limit was used each day. Stonewall Jackson Lake showed it's muscle on this event.



John Oesterle landed a 4 3/4 pound hybrid bass off the Ohio River.



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Patric Wright landed the big bass (4-14) at the Kings of the Lakes bass tournament in August.

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Details On Page 3**



Angela Robinson caught a 5 pound 2 oz. smallmouth. Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton.

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Balser & Balser came in 4th at the Sept. Stonewall tournament with a 2 day total of 25-14. A 5 pound, 5 oz. bass is in his left hand.



Gary Ross landed the day 2 big bass at Stonewall Jackson Lake. This nice largemouth weighed 5 pounds, 12 oz..



Perry & Perry came in 5th at the Stonewall Jackson event with a 2 day weight of 24-9.. This spotted bass weighed 3 pounds, 8 oz.



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Fall Bass Bait Selection

This issue we're going to talk about fall bait selection. We'll concentrate on four traditional baits that almost everyone thinks about when they start their fall bass fishing. Then, in Part 2, we'll look at four nontraditional baits that I use when the bite gets a little tough or when my gut tells me the time is right for them.

I promise you that I'll have all eight of these lures tied on when the Toyota Bassmaster Angler of the Year Championship starts next week. They're that good, and I have that much confidence in them.

Before we talk specifics, though, let's review two factors that matter when the leaves start to turn. The first one is that the fish are moving shallow. They do this because they are following the baitfish. Depending upon where you live this has already started or it will start pretty soon.

The second factor is the importance of matching the hatch. There are two aspects to this — size and color. Of the two, I'd say size is maybe a little more important but not by much. They both matter.

Spinnerbait

This is the one lure that everybody has in their tacklebox. Mix colors and blade size until you find what they think looks like the real thing.

There's no one way, or best way, to fish a fall spinnerbait. Fish it slow, fish it fast and fish it somewhere in between. I usually start with a willowleaf model in chartreuse and white. I change things around if I don't get the bites I think I should.

Crankbait

This is a great fall bait. You can get them in almost any size, color and running depth. Remember something about matching the


hatch here, though. A lot of the baitfish are young-of-the-year models. They aren't very big and very few of them have a potbelly. Keep that

By Mike Iaconelli
in mind when you pick a crankbait to throw.

continue to the next page



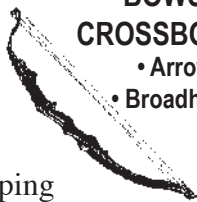
Scott Schuler landed a large musky. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



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Make sure you match the size of your lure to the size of the baitfish. Size really matters when you're fishing on top.

Jerkbait

This might be the best traditional fall bait of them all. I know some guys put them away once the water starts to cool because they say they don't catch very many bass on them. That's a mistake. Pick one with the right action and you'll see what I mean.

"The right action" is defined as a lot of movement. I'm a Rapala man, as you know. I love the Husky Jerk when the water is 50 degrees or below. But when it's in the 60 degree range or above the X-Rap is a much better bait. It has more movement. That's what you want right now.

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Illegal Ginseng Seized

BECKLEY, West Virginia – A year-long investigation by Natural Resources Police Officers in southern West Virginia has resulted in 11 arrests and the seizure of 190 pounds of dry ginseng that was illegally harvested before the ginseng digging season began Sept. 1. The estimated market value of the

ginseng is \$180,000.

In addition to the ginseng, officers also seized multiple stolen guns, illegal drugs and pills, and \$30,000 in cash, according to Lt. Woodrow Brogan of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Law Enforcement District 4 office in Beckley. District 4 includes the counties of Fayette, Greenbrier, Raleigh, Wyoming, McDowell, Mercer, Summers and Monroe.

"The legal digging and selling of ginseng root has been a part of the culture of southern Appalachia for more than a hundred years," Lt. Brogan said. "Many people in this area have supplemented their income by digging ginseng, almost all of which is exported to Asia. In

continue to the next page



Wild ginseng leaves and roots.

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the past, they took care to preserve the resource, but we've noticed in recent years an increase in people wanting to make a 'fast buck' by



Shawn Stidham brought in a 50 pound male coyote..

digging and selling as much ginseng as possible, both in season and out. Much of that increased activity includes unlicensed dealers trading illegal pills for ginseng root."

Working with officials with the West Virginia Division of Forestry, which regulates the ginseng digging season and licenses dealers, DNR police officers investigated and conducted two weeks of multiple raids on illegal diggers and

dealers, confiscating the dry ginseng and other items.

Eleven arrests have been made to date and several more arrest warrants are expected in the near future as this is an ongoing investigation, according to Lt. Brogan.

About West Virginia's Ginseng Season

West Virginia's 2014 ginseng digging season began Sept. 1 and runs

continue to the next page



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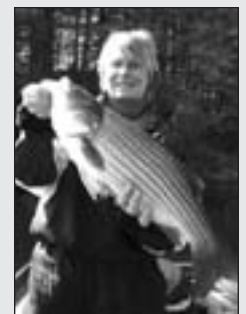
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through Sunday, Nov. 30. The native herb grows in all of the state's 55 counties and is ready to harvest when its berries turn red. West Virginia state law requires "sengers," those who dig the root, to only harvest plants with three or more prongs. The number of prongs indicates the age of the plant. Only plants 5 years old and older can legally be harvested. In addition, sengers are required to replant the berries/seeds from the parent plant in the spot where they harvested it to help continue the species.

The following laws also apply to the harvesting of ginseng:

No permit is needed to dig wild ginseng, but anyone digging ginseng on someone else's property must carry written permission from the landowner allowing him or her to harvest ginseng on the property. Digging ginseng on public lands,

including state forests, wildlife management areas or state parks, is prohibited.

Diggers have until March 31 of each year to sell to a registered West Virginia ginseng dealer or have roots weight-receipted at one of the Division of Forestry weigh stations.

Possession of ginseng roots is prohibited from April 1 through Aug. 31 without a weight-receipt from the West Virginia Division of Forestry.

A list of registered ginseng dealers for 2014-2015 is available in www.wvforestry.com

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Greg Murphy, from Ripley, landed a large bass at Cedar Lakes.



Lillian Beall bagged 2 squirrels in Gilmore County.

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Wanted - Trophy Fish & Bucks

ROANOKE, W.Va. - If you have a legally harvested and mounted West Virginia big buck trophy, or if you have a trophy fish caught from West Virginia waters, it's wanted for the Big Buck/Trophy Fish Display at West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day, Sept. 27-28, 2014, at Stonewall Resort State Park near Weston in Lewis County.

The West Virginia Wildlife Federation, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) and Toyota are seeking hunters who own trophy white-tailed bucks that were legally taken in West Virginia with either bow or gun and have a Pope & Young or Boone & Crockett score of 140 or greater. They are also seeking fish that qualified for a trophy fish citation under the WVDNR guidelines.

"Each year the West Virginia Wildlife Federation and the WVDNR showcase these animals at this event," said display organizers James Walker and Rob Silvester, WVDNR wildlife biologists. "The display is a tremendous draw to



Gary Frazier landed another big smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

West Virginia's Celebration of National Hunting and Fishing Day, attracting thousands of visitors annually."

Participation for trophy bucks will be limited to the first 30 qualifying trophy entries received. As an incentive for participation, hunters who display their trophy deer at the two-day event will be entered into an exclusive drawing for several valuable prizes.

Participation for trophy fish will be limited to 25 qualifying trophy entries to be determined by the selection committee. No more than five entries of any species will be accepted. As an incentive for participation, each angler who displays his or her trophy fish mount at the two-day event will be eligible to win one of five \$100 gift certificates. Prizes will be picked randomly.

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mounts and qualifying fish mounts should contact James Walker for fish or Rob Silvester for bucks at 304-924-6211 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or email James.A.Walker@wv.gov or Rob.A.Silvester@wv.gov for additional information.

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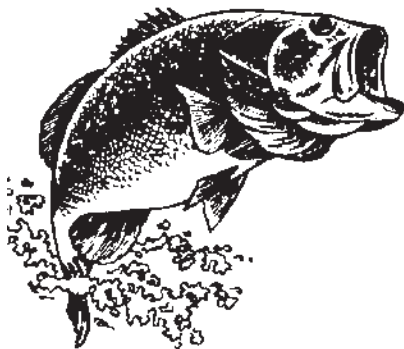
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These two fellows had a big day on the New River catching large smallmouth bass. Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.

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Chase Miller, From New Martinsville, caught a 30' drum.

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Matt Summers hooked a 5 pound, 8 oz. largemouth for 2nd big bass at the Sept. Stonewall Jackson event.



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Shawn Ramey got a huge snapping turtle. Photo courtesy of Jarrett's Bait in Elizabeth.



Bill Looney, from Amma caught a 27" walleye.



Joshua Sergent, from Beckley, hooked 23 1/2" carp.



Dylan Washinger reeled in a large-mouth bass. Photo courtesy of Broken Wheel Campground in Weston.



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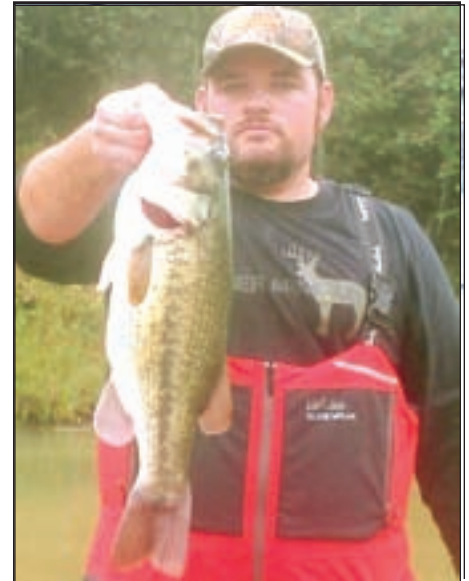
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Jim Fore hooked a 6 pound, 2 oz. largemouth bass.

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Small Game Hunting Seasons

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The statewide squirrel season opens Saturday, Sept. 13. “Squirrel season is the first of numerous small game seasons and is very popular with many West Virginia sportsmen,” said Curtis I. Taylor, Chief of the Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section. “It is a time when hunters can participate in one of their favorite sports and also enjoy the fall beauty of the Mountain State.”

The ruffed grouse season opens Oct. 18, 2014, and closes Feb. 28, 2015. The daily bag limit for grouse is four. Grouse hunters should look for areas that provide ample cov-

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er and soft mast species such as grape, hawthorn and greenbrier. For additional information on mast conditions, hunters should consult the 2014 DNR Mast Survey which will be available around the first of October.

Hunting season for raccoons opens Oct. 18, 2014 at 6 p.m. and continues through Feb. 28, 2015. Raccoon populations should be similar to previous years. Hunters and their hounds should have a very successful season after locating good food sources. Raccoon hunters are reminded that the daily bag limit is four.

Opening day of cottontail rabbit season is Nov. 1, 2014. With the better-than-average rainfall this summer, rabbit populations are expected to be higher with the increase of food and cover. Old fields and brushy pastures are the best habitat types in which to rabbit hunt.

Snowshoe hare, bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, bobcat, red fox, and gray fox hunting seasons continue to the next page

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A large smallmouth was brought in.. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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also open Nov. 1, 2014. Hunters should be aware of daily bag and season possession limits for each species.

Night hunting with lights for foxes will open Jan. 1, 2015, and continues until Feb. 28, 2015.

Nov. 1, 2014, marks the opening of trapping season for furbearing animals in West Virginia. Populations of beaver, bobcat, fox, mink, otter and raccoon are good, and trappers should be very successful. Trappers are reminded to check season closing dates as they vary for the different species.

For more complete information on season dates and bag limits, consult the 2014–2015 West Virginia Hunting and Trapping Regulations brochure available at all hunting and fishing license agents,

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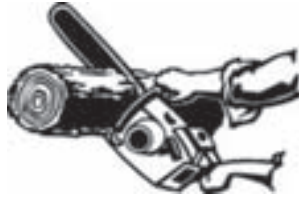
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Drop Shot Fishing

For anglers who live east of the Mississippi River, the term “drop-shot” often brings thoughts of deep water, wimpy rods, spinning reels, 6-pound-test and plastic worms the size of spaghetti noodles.

While many Eastern anglers automatically place the dainty drop-shot into the finesse category, Western pros Luke Clausen and Art Berry do not see it that way.

“Drop-shotting does not have to be a finesse technique for deep water,” Berry emphasized. “By beefing up tackle into the medium and heavy range, the drop-shot can be a total power technique in the shallows.”

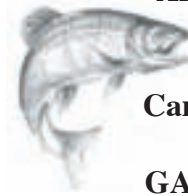
“When the drop-shot hitched a ride east with Aaron Martens, it was touted as a finesse technique and that’s how it got labeled,” he said. “But I fish a drop-shot on regular-duty tackle all the time, and it works great.”

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In order to power up their drop-shot rigs, both pros go to 7-foot me-
continue to the next page

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dium-heavy casting tackle spooled with fluorocarbon in the 12- to 17-pound-test range. Their drop-shot weight sizes will range from 1/4- to 3/8-ounce, depending on the depth and water color.

"There's no limit to powering up the drop-shot," Berry said. "I frequently pitch a drop-shot rig on 50-pound-test braided line in the California Delta."

In addition, both pros also go to bigger, heavier gauge hooks.

"I usually go with a 2/0 or 3/0 straight-shank superline hook," Berry recommended.

Powering up drop-shot tackle allows anglers a wider selection of soft plastics.

"Six- to 10-inch worms, Zoom Brush Hogs and Senkos are all fair game," Berry noted. "One of my favorite drop-shot setups is a Senko rigged on 12- or 15-pound line - it makes a great pitching bait for docks and sparse vegetation."

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The Spin On Fishing Reels

There's nothing like standing on the bank of a stream or river, the sun sparkling on the water and feeling the thrill of a big catch. You play the fish until it tires, carefully bringing it in using your reel. Your choice of reel is important when you're an active fisherman.

A fishing reel is a piece of fishing equipment that is devised for sports and hobby fishermen to cast and retrieve fishing line. It is a spool and axle that mounts on a fishing rod. There are also reels that have been specifically designed to mount on boats. There are three basic types of fishing reels: bait casting, fly casting and spin casting.


Bait Casting Reels

Bait casting reels are extremely complicated. The line is pulled off the rod by the weight of the lures being used. It is thrust forward by the motion of casting. These reels usually provide a device that lays the line evenly across the rotating cylinder that acts as the core of the reel. If the cast is not smooth, it will cause problems when the line

is reeled in. The line can become tangled, which is frustrating to the user. Great lengths of time can be spent untangling the line when us-
continue to the next page



Matt Stodard landed a big smallmouth. *Photo courtesy of Three Rivers Edge in Hinton.*

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ing bait casting reels. These reels are not for beginners or children.

Fly Fishing Reels

There are two specific things you need to be aware of when choosing a fly fishing reel. One is to ensure that it has a drag that is extremely responsive. The second thing is to buy a fly fishing reel that can stand the tension and strain put on it should you have a significantly large catch. Fly casting reels are more expensive than other types of fishing reels. When purchasing a fly fishing reel, look it over with an eagle eye and ascertain that there are no plastic parts. It isn't unusual for plastic to fail when you have a large fish on your line. All metal reels are much more reliable and are worth the extra price that you will pay.

Spinning Reels

There are two types of spinning reels - closed faced and open faced.

The closed faced reel is inexpensive and easy to use. It is the best type of reel for those who are learning to fish. Closed faced reels

are almost trouble free, yet are capable of bringing in your catch, whatever it may be. Closed faced spinning reels have a push button release when casting and have an opening in the top for the line to come out when cast. This type of reel is mounted on your fishing rod. Spinning reels are used by

fishermen who are hobbyist, casual sportsmen, beginners and children. If you buy a prepackaged rod and reel, this is usually the type of reel that's included.

Open faced spinning reels are
continue to the next page



Travis Greenlief, from Weston, landed a huge 52 1/2 inch musky at Stone-coal Lake. It was around 45 ponds in weight.

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more difficult to use and comes in a variety of sizes. Ultra light models are great for catching pan fish. Larger models will be needed for game fishing or ocean fishing. Line capacity on an open faced reel is greater and is serviceable when fishing for salmon and trout. They have a smooth drag, which makes them an excellent choice for the longer run game fish.

A closed faced fishing reel is perfect for beginners and children, as mentioned above. As your fishing skills are honed, you may wish to upgrade to an open faced reel and then move on to more advanced reels. Keep in mind that you don't want to choose a reel with plastic parts that can fail if you catch a good sized fish. A good rule of thumb is the lighter the line, the smaller the reel. Be sure the reel you purchase is compatible with the type of fishing line you plan to use. If you're choosing only one reel, a medium speed is best. If you plan on buying at least two reels, choose both a high and low speed. There is a difference in reels for right and left-handed people. Be sure you purchase a reel that is compatible with your dexterity. Left handed reels turn counter clock wise while a right handed reel turns clock wise.

If you have trouble choosing a reel, ask a family member or friend who is an avid angler to lend you a hand, or ask the staff at your local fishing store. Anyone who has experience in fishing will be more than glad to help in any way they can.



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| M | I | I | R | A | S | E | T | A | B | G | N | I | H | C | T | E | L | F | |
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| C | E | M | I | R | N | O | V | E | T | S | E | S | U | R | C | O | A | A | R |
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TRACTS 1-18 • 876± ACRES

This contiguous property features mixed hardwood trees, pine trees, as well as plantations planted in 1997 & 1998 consisting of various hardwood and pine species, several ponds, numerous trails, pasture/hay acre plus prime hunting. Excellent wildlife habitat provides superior hunting opportunities on this property. *Over 800± acres of this tract was managed by the Buckeye Buckmasters Chapter of the Buckmasters American Deer Foundation (BADF) for the past 4 years.* Pristine beaver pond to scenic views from the various ridge tops makes this a rare opportunity to purchase excellent hunting/recreational land. This property also offers several unique rural estate potential building sites adjacent to Rix Mills. Tracts 1-18 are located in the East Muskingum School District.

TRACTS 19-26 • 640± ACRES

638 Acres of contiguous land adjacent to the Wilds divided into 8 tracts. The Wilds area creates an excellent hunting habitat on this property. The Wilds consists of 10,000 acres of wilderness with no hunting allowed creating excellent hunting along the boundaries of the Wilds. This property has approximately 1 mile of adjoining boundary lines on north and east side of property protecting this property from hunting pressure by adjoining property owners. Excellent potential to plant food plots to enhance hunting opportunities on this property from the Wilds area (10,000 acres of adjacent). Rare opportunity to purchase this unique property. Excellent hunting/recreational, scenic views, plus excellent location (easy access).

TRACTS 27-30 • 187± ACRES

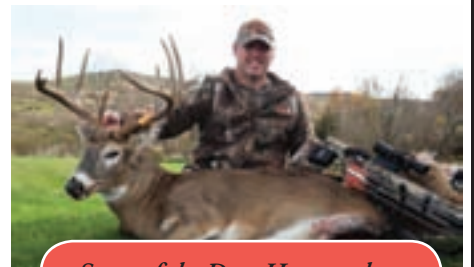
TRACTS 31-32 • 24± ACRES

TRACTS 33-35 • 90± ACRES

TRACTS 36-38 • 41± ACRES

TRACT 39 • 34± ACRES

TRACTS 40-41 • 73± ACRES



Some of the Deer Harvested on this Property During the fall 2013 Hunting Season



Over 800± acres managed by the Buckmasters American Deer Foundation (BADF) for the past 4 years.

INSPECTION HEADQUARTERS:
Terre Cotta Vineyards, 2285 Rix Mills Rd, New Concord, OH 43762.
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Sat., September 13th • 9AM-Noon
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