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Issue 250

Dec. 2015 Jan. 2016

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**Rabbit
HUNTING**

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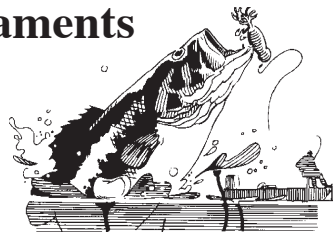
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Cover Photo

A long tined 15 point buck was harvested by Nick Starkey. The Bucknannon native had pics of this buck on his trail cam. His wife, Angie, gave up her ground blind spot for him to use. This top quality buck green scored 191 2/8. After deductions, it should be one of the biggest typical gun bucks ever.

Send in your 2015 TEXT pics.
Send to 304-482-7217..

*Photo courtesy of Anderson Outdoors
in Buckhannon.*

Governor's One Shot Grant

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – A grant from the Governor's One Shot, Inc. has increased the reimbursement rate for meat processors who participate in the Division of Natural Resources' "Hunters Helping the Hungry" (HHH) program. The reimbursement has been raised from \$1.45 per pound of processed venison to \$2 per pound, effective with the 2015 deer hunting seasons.

Governor's One Shot, Inc., is a tax-exempt nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting the HHH program by organizing the annual Governor's One Shot White-tail Hunt, a fundraising event held each fall. Over the past eight years, the organization has provided nearly \$500,000 to Mountaineer

Food Bank in support of HHH and its mission to provide balanced, healthy meals for the less fortunate of West Virginia.

"Meat processors provide an invaluable service to hungry West Virginians every year, and we hope this increased reimbursement rate will support continued participation by processors in the HHH program," said Glenn Adrian, president of Governor's One Shot, Inc.

A new banner has been provided to each meat processor, showing their participation in the HHH program. Any processor that is interested in becoming part of the HHH program should contact Tyler Evans, DNR Wildlife Resources Section, at 304-924-6211 or email tyler.s.evans@wv.gov.

Hunters can donate legally harvested deer by delivering the deer to the nearest participating meat processor. A list of processors is available at www.wvdnr.gov/Hunting/HHH.shtm. Venison is deboned, ground and frozen in two-pound packages. Food banks distribute it to more than 500 food programs throughout West Virginia.



Andrew D'Angelo used a crossbow in Ohio for a nice 9 point.



Jamie Bernard harvested a Tyler county buck.

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Matt Armentrout went to Pendleton county for a 120 class bow buck.

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2015 WV Deer Hunting Facts

The West Virginia buck firearms season is Nov. 23 – Dec. 5, 2015. It is open in all counties except Logan, Mingo, McDowell and Wyoming.

Approximately 330,000 deer hunters will be in West Virginia's woods during this season.

Hunters should review the 2015 - 2016 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for detailed instructions concerning bag limits and season dates. The regulations are available at license agents, DNR district offices or online at www.wvdnr.gov.

All hunters must have an official DNR ID number in order to check game this year. The ID number can be found on the annual hunting license when purchased, or can be



Young Chance Rine enjoyed his hunt. *Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.*

obtained by calling 304-558-2758 or logging on to wvhunt.com and providing the requested information. Game may be checked by telephone at 1-844-wvcheck, online at wvhunt.com or at any hunting license agent. All field tagging, transporting and possession requirements still apply.

Hunters may use a crossbow during the firearms season.

The buck deer bag limit during the two-week buck firearms season is two (one on the base license and one on an RG [resident] or RRG [nonresident] stamp). A hunter may take no more than three antlered deer per calendar year in all archery, crossbow and firearms seasons combined.

The last day to purchase an additional buck deer gun tag (Class RG/RRG Stamp) is Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015. Class RG and Class RRG additional buck stamps can only be used to take an additional antlered deer during buck firearms season. Unused Class RG and Class RRG stamps may not be used in antlerless or muzzleloader seasons.

Antlerless deer hunting is legal on private land in 47 counties or portions thereof and all public lands having an antlerless season Nov.

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Nathan Owens arrowed an Ohio 180 class buck. *Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.*

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per day, but only one antlered deer may be harvested per day. The first deer does not have to be electronically registered before harvesting the second deer in the same day.

However, all deer legally harvested must be electronically registered and legally tagged before hunting during a subsequent day.

Concurrent with the buck gun season will be a bear gun season in 29 counties, 18 of which require a permit that must be issued before the season. Consult the 2015–2016 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for specific counties.

According to Southwick Associates, hunting contributes \$500 million each year to the state's economy. Deer hunters spend an estimated \$230 million in West Virginia, much of it in the rural ar-



Robin Hardbarger used a bow for an awesome 12 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*



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eas of the state that depend upon the deer seasons for a large portion of their annual income. Hunting is estimated to be responsible for 5,400 jobs and \$35 million in sales taxes on goods and services spent in West Virginia.

In 2014, the traditional bucks-only firearm season harvest of antlered bucks was 37,450, a decrease of 34 percent from the 2013 harvest. This is 33 percent less than the five-year

average bucks-only firearm season harvest of 55,902 and ranks 34th among all past years.

WVDNR predicts the buck harvest should be higher in 2015 than in 2014. The 30 percent reduction in the 2014 buck harvest means that many bucks survived the season and some of them should be available for harvest in 2015. In

continue to the next page

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Details On Page 3**



Kaleb Gooding went to Ohio for a good 9 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Re-creations Taxidermy Studio in Elkins.*



Everett Carmichael landed a musky on Middle Island Creek.

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addition, the percentage of yearling bucks in the harvest in 2014 was near 30 percent. This means many bucks are surviving to reach older age classes and the chance to kill a large-antlered buck has increased.

As of Nov. 16, 2015, Sunday hunting was legal in the following 21 counties on private land only: Boone, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Clay, Hancock, Jefferson, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, McDowell, Marshall, Mingo, Nicholas, Ohio, Roane, Wayne, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt and Wyoming. The only Sunday that is open in these counties during the buck season is Nov. 29.

Hunters are required to wear at least 400 square inches of blaze orange (about the size of a vest) as an outer garment for visibility and safety. Blaze orange camouflage patterns are legal as long as 400 square inches of blaze orange are

displayed on the garment. A blaze orange hat is not required, but the hunter must have blaze orange visible from both the front and the back.

Hunting licenses may be purchased online at any time and printed out on a home computer printer. Go to the goWILD! website at www.wvhunt.com, fill out the application, and purchase it over a se-



Trey Herndon used a bow for a nice buck.

cure server with a credit card.

Hunters who wish to donate deer meat or dollars to the Hunters Helping the Hungry program, which distributes deer meat through the Mountaineer Food Bank and the Huntington Food Bank, should call 304-924-6211 or visit the DNR website at www.wvdnr.gov



Cody Bunner arrowed an 8 point in Marion County.

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WV Elk Management Plan

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) has made the Draft West Virginia Elk Management Plan: 2016-2020 available for public review and comment. A copy of the draft plan can be found on the DNR's website at: www.wvdnr.gov/Publications/Draft_Elk_Plan.pdf.

"The DNR developed its initial Elk Management Plan in 2011, which designated an elk management area in the southern coal fields region of West Virginia," according to Gary Foster, assistant chief in charge of Game Management. "Over the past five years the plan allowed for an elk population to become established within this area through the natural immigration of elk from Kentucky and Virginia into West Virginia. Now, we are proposing a modified strategy to be implement-

ed over the next five-year period, with plans to restore a viable elk population through an elk translocation approach."

The DNR encourages the public to provide written comments on the Draft West Virginia Elk Management Plan: 2016-2020. Comments should be postmarked by Jan. 15,

2016, and mailed to: Public Comments - Elk Management Plan, WVDNR, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241. Individuals seeking additional information relating to the plan should contact the DNR Elkins Operation Center at 304-637-0245.



Sierrah Rose went to Cabell County to get this 8 point buck



Bob O'Dell hunted in Jackson County for this good 10 point.

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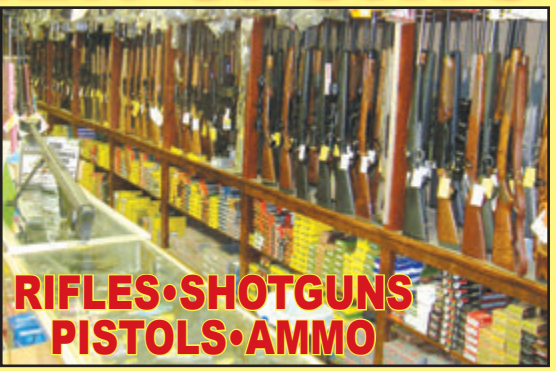
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Tom Badgett used a bow for this Randolph buck. *Photo courtesy of Re-Creations Taxidermy Studio in Elkins*



Young Nick Milhoan brought in a good 9 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.*

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Don Salisbury used a bow for a nice 8 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark*



Mitch Ligett went to Africa for a wildbeest. *Photo courtesy of Anderson's Outdoors in Buckhannon.*

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2015 Buck Results

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Preliminary data collected from the new electronic game checking system indicate deer hunters in West Virginia harvested 66,374 bucks during the two-week buck firearms season, which ran from Nov. 23 through Dec. 5, 2015, according to Paul Johansen, chief of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Resources Section.

The 2015 buck harvest is up 77 percent from the 2014 harvest of 37,450. The top 10 counties for buck harvest were: Ritchie (2,273), Preston (2,242), Lewis

(2,157), Hampshire (2,107), Jackson (2,094), Roane (2,087), Hardy (1,885), Greenbrier (1,884), Upshur (1,864) and Wood (1,802).

The buck harvest increased in all DNR districts. The largest percentage increases occurred in the western counties of the state where the

harvest was double that of last year. Excellent weather conditions and the lack of acorns were the primary reasons for the increase in 2015.

“We are very pleased with how hunters adapted to the new electronic game checking system,”

continue to the next page



Shannon Markie went to Webster County for a massive 11 point.



Jimmie Williamson bagged a nice muzzleloader buck in Tyler Co.



Erica Davis, from Pt. Pleasant, has an 8 point for her 1st buck.

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added Johansen. "We have received many positive comments about the ease of being able to check deer and other game using the telephone, Internet or by stopping at a license agent."

Johansen reminds hunters that several days of deer hunting opportunity still remain for 2015, including the remainder of the muzzle-loader season, which runs through Saturday, Dec. 12,. The traditional antlerless deer season in selected counties on both public and private land opens Thursday, Dec. 17, and runs through Saturday, Dec. 19. The Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS deer season for antlerless deer will be open Saturday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Dec. 28, in any county with a firearms deer season. This will be followed by the reopening of Class N/NN antlerless deer season Dec. 29-31 in specified counties or portions of counties (see 2015 - 2016 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary or visit the DNR website at www.wvdnr.gov for county and area listings).



Brian Butcher went to Lewis County for a great buck.

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A nice archery Ohio deer was harvested by Kenny Britton. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.



A nice gun deer was harvested. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

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5 Cold Weather Rabbit Hunting Tips

Winter is something we all feel in our own way. For some of us it is tempting to find a warm spot to ride out the cold while others embrace it and want to enjoy the great outdoors more than ever. Well, just as our behavior changes when the mercury drops, the behavior of rabbits does, too. With food becoming scarcer and the availability of cover decreasing as foliage loses leaves, the rabbit is forced to adapt and change in order to survive. This means your hunting needs to adapt and change as well and here

are five suggestions for doing so:
1. Have you ever noticed that when



Wanda Collins, from Culloden, caught a nice largemouth bass.

the grass in the yard you painstakingly tended has died, that the occasional patch of clover can still be found? Clover is a legume that deposits nitrogen into the soil where it grows, which then sustains the clover for a longer period of time when cold weather arrives. Rabbits find clover to be irresistible, so if you find it, you will find them. It is most easily located in areas with rich sunshine where soil drains adequately to eliminate standing water. Clover sometimes grows in and
continue to the next page

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around deer plots, which are also locations rabbits are likely to visit.

2. Saplings are another prime feeding location for rabbits. Though saplings are not a number one choice, they are preferred to going hungry. When other foliage such as raspberry and blackberry bushes has been picked clean, rabbits will move on to feeding on saplings. Though these trees may not grow much in the winter months, they are alive and provide a snack of green bark beneath the dry exterior. Look for chew marks to indicate if rabbits have moved on to this food source.

3. When the preferred food and cover sources of the warmer months are no more, alternative cover will be necessary. It is at times like this that fence rows and brush piles play an important role in rabbit habitat. Since fencerows are often overgrown, they give rabbits an opportunity to find both food and cover. In the case of brush piles resulting from cleared land or chopped firewood a perfect location is created to safely hide, keeping them out of reach of aerial predators as well as those moving on land.

4. Take note of the temperature. A cold rabbit is not necessarily as mobile as a warm rabbit, preferring instead to hunker down and avoid moving unless necessary. In conditions such as this, where the temperature continues to drop, rabbits will continue to the next page

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Jodi Adkins went to Calhoun Co. for her first buck - a 10 point.



Nick Starkey's (cover photo) 15 point has extra long tines.

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erature has dropped significantly, it may be possible to nearly trip over a rabbit that is remaining still to stay warm. At times like this it is vital that you slow down and be extra observant, pausing frequently as you scan areas for hidden rabbits. It may also help to make noise to spur still rabbits into action.

5. Don't forget the Beagles! The performance of a rabbit dog in the cold can actually rival that of a warm day due to the possibility that they can better pick up a scent

trail in the cold. Do keep in mind, however, that the distance rabbits run in the cold is not the same as in the summer; does run in shorter loops with bucks taking the longer route. This will require you to pay more attention to the actions of the rabbit as the dogs give chase.

Even if the cold has got you down and inhibited your hunting success, keep in mind that breeding season is right around the corner. More rabbits will soon be born for you and your rabbit dogs to pursue next season. Then snow will melt and it will be time again to consider adding to your pack of rabbit dogs or purchasing new gear.

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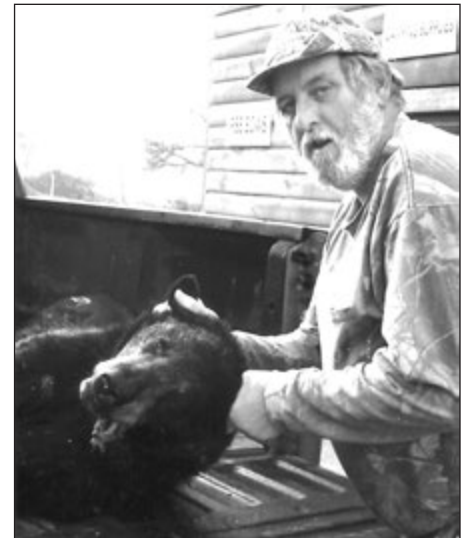
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Lydia Isner, from Phillipi, got a crossbow black bear - her 1st.



David Hunter shot a 7 point in Jackson County.



Mike Ritchie brought in a nice black bear. *Photo courtesy of Trapper's Den in Cowen.*

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Logan Powersports Group Named 2015 Power 50 No. 1 Dealer by Powersports Business

October 20, 2015

Powersports Business, the powersports industry's leading media brand, announced its 2015 Power 50 dealerships Thursday night during an awards dinner sponsored by EFG Companies and National Powersport Auctions (NPA) at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Fla., during the American International Motorcycle Expo (AIMExpo).

Logan Powersports Group, based in Logan, West Virginia, claimed the top spot as the No. 1 dealer for 2015. The family-owned business operates five dealerships, including two in Logan (population 1,700) — Logan Motorcycle Sales and Keefer's Powersports. In addition, Logan owns Route 119 Powersports in Danville, West Virginia; Hatfield McCoy Powersports in Belfry, Kentucky; and M&M Powersports in Staffordsville, Kentucky.

Logan opened its first location in 1961 and has been a Power 50 Award recipient since the program's 2013 launch. The stores combine to offer new motorcycles, ATVs, side-by-sides and scooters from Arctic Cat, Bannche, CFMOTO, Honda, Kawasaki, KYMCO, Polaris, Star Motorcycles, Suzuki and Yamaha.

President Michael Ratz serves as a member of the Polaris Dealer Council and CFMOTO Dealer Council, and is on the board of directors of the Hatfield McCoy Trails System. In addition, he is a member of the Goldwing Road Riders Association WV Chapter K, and is a life member of the American Motorcyclist Association. He also serves as a member of the Logan County Chamber of Commerce and is a board member of the WV Auto and Truck Dealers Association.

"Logan Powersports Group has evolved over more than 50 years to become an operation that simply sets the bar with their approach to customer service," Powersports Business editor-in-chief Dave McMahon said. "With Mike Ratz overseeing the business operations and his the management and staff providing a superior retail experience for riders, Logan dealerships have set themselves apart. In fact, all of the Power 50 members set the benchmark across North America by providing an optimal retail experience."

In Logan's Power 50 application, Ratz wrote, "We have a philosophy that we manage with at our dealerships, and every new employee is given a copy. We have it hanging on the wall for everyone to see, and we read it daily. It says...



Pictured left to right: Assistant Editor of Powersports Business, Kate Swanson, President of the Logan Powersports Group, Mike Ratz, Managing Editor of Powersports Business, Liz Keener, and Editor-in-Chief of Powersports Business, Dave McMahon

ATTITUDE

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company ... a church ... a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past. We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happened to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you ... we are in charge of our ATTITUDES.

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The Power 50 dealers were selected by the Powersports Business editorial staff upon completion of an extensive application process that focused on a variety of business segments, including new and pre-owned sales, events, marketing, service and F&I department operations, employee training and social media usage.



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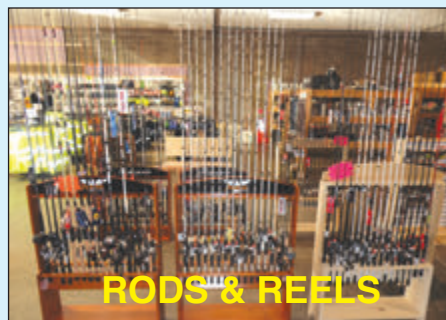
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Jeff Harper went to Ohio for a large buck.



Thad Duvall, from Williamstown, used a bow in Ohio for an 11 point buck.

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Avery Starkey has harvested a very long tined spike buck.



Mason Rine bagged a big Tyler Co. buck. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.

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We anglers have a tendency to make things too complicated sometimes. If we stick to the basics we'll do just fine. We don't need 14 rods on the deck of our boat.

There's a reason that coaches still teach — and practice relentlessly — the bounce pass in basketball. It moves the ball around, and it's really tough to defend. It works. It's not fancy and it rarely makes the highlight film. But when the game is over it'll account for a lot of

points, and the team that scores the most points wins the game.

It's the same with a layup. Every player on the court will get a chance to make a layup somewhere along the line. If a player practices it, and gets good at it, he'll score two points for his team when he gets the chance.

It's the same thing with bass fishing. Basic things still work and they still account for fish in the boat regardless of whether you're fishing a tournament or just out messing around for the day. I define basic things as those that have

continue to the next page



Zane Reeder, 8, shot a nice 1st buck in Wirt County. *Photo courtesy of Holbert's Store in Big Bend.*



A nice 9 point was shot by Stewart McGraw in Summers County.

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Joe Jarrett took a nice buck. *Photo courtesy of WV Wild Outdoors in Birch River.*

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been tested successfully for years and years in different waters everywhere around the country. Here are my picks...

The square bill crankbait: This bad boy will catch enough of them to earn a spot of the deck of your boat. I'd suggest something that runs in the 7 to 8 foot range. Throw it anywhere you think it'll work and in whatever color you think looks the best. (You may as well pick the color. The bass isn't going to tell you what he or she likes.)

Don't be fooled into thinking that the square bill is somehow new just because it's gotten a lot of publicity recently. It's been around for a long time.

The jig: Learn to fish a jig in 4



Bob Hein, from Parkersburg, got a 10 point in Ritchie County.

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The shaky head: I've had the privilege of fishing with, and against, the man who actually invented the shaky head. It caught bass 20 years ago, and it's still catching them to-

continue to the next page



Father and son, Joe & Colt Corder bagged a 7 & 8 point buck in Doddridge County. Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.

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day. The guy I'm talking about still uses the same design and setup he always did, and he's still the guy to beat in most local tournaments around here.

I know what I just said about the invention of the shaky head is a bold statement. I don't care. It's true. It's a fact. I saw it in operation years and years ago, and I saw it in operation last week.

Keep things simple, guys. You don't need every fancy bait out there, and you don't need to know how to fish with 10 or 12 different setups. Bass are fish. They don't think. Go with what works.



Cindy Dickens, from Worthington, caught a 21" rainbow trout.



Robert Bartsch, from Wheeling brought in a 9 point buck.

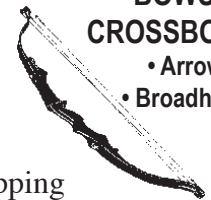


Scott Snyder shot a quality long tined buck. Photo courtesy of Trapper's Den in Cowen.



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WV Wildlife Calendar

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - "The 2016 West Virginia Wildlife Calendar is now available for everyone to enjoy," according to Paul R. Johansen, chief of the Division of Natural Resources Wildlife Resources Section.

The cover of this award-winning wall calendar features a painting of two male turkeys in the snow. Paintings by West Virginia artists include a groundhog, a beagle with cottontail rabbit, a male brook trout, a springer spaniel and ruffed grouse, an opossum, a pair of coyotes, red fox kits and a green darner dragonfly. Additional wildlife species featured include a Baltimore oriole, a mother black bear with cubs, and a snowy owl.

Accompanying each painting is a brief description of the featured animal and the artist's contact information. Feature articles in the back of the calendar highlight lichens and the new electronic game check system, along with a compilation of nature quotes accompanied by photos.



Matt Burdette harvested a good 11 point. *Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.*



Jansen McCloy shot a 10 point in Wood County.

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"The calendar is full of interesting daily facts, best fishing days and monthly tips to help you fully enjoy the outdoors," Johansen said. "Its \$10 price tag makes it a terrific bargain and a great holiday gift." continue to the next page

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Proceeds from the calendar sales help fund projects of the DNR Wildlife Diversity Program such as monitoring bird populations, developing educational wildlife trunks for use in schools, and printing of publications about wildlife species which are not hunted, trapped or fished.

The 2016 West Virginia Wildlife Calendar is available at DNR district offices, card stores, convenience and drug stores throughout the state, or through the West



Levi Goodman, 9, bagged his 1st deer in Cabell County.

Virginia DNR Wildlife Resources Section, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241; phone: 304-637-0245. A list of vendors selling the calendars is available online at www.wvdnr.gov/Wildlife/WildlifeCalendar.shtm.

If you buy the calendar through the mail, make checks payable to WVDNR in the amount of \$16.50 for each calendar, which includes shipping and handling (West Virginia residents add \$.60 tax for each calendar. VISA, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are accepted.



Jeff Moss has a 160 class buck from Harrison County.



Andrea Adams got her 1st buck in Wood County.

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Talia & Mia Beto both brought in nice gobblers.



Clayton Wooten used a gun in Randolph Co. for his first bear.



Terry Turley, from Hurricane, got an Alaskan bull moose.



Stephen Medina, from Clarksburg, bagged a huge bull moose.



Tammy Biddle, from Parkersburg, caught a 5 pound Canadian bass.



Young Wesley Collins used a crossbow in Raleigh County.



Sean Thomas used his bow for a nice buck.



Rick Stillwell used a bow for a Randolph Co. 14 point buck.



Nina Mae Coberly, from Buckhannon, used a crossbow for a 7 point.



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Corey Lane brought in an awesome buck. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



Tom Boggs took a great buck. Photo courtesy of Trapper's Den in Cowen.

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 Details On Page 3**



Rich Wynn used a bow for a huge Ohio buck. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.

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Brad Liggett went to Africa for an Impala. Photo courtesy of Anderson Outdoors in Buckhannon.



Larry Adams had gun success with this Tyler Co. buck. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.

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Mickey Batten got a huge Wirt Co. buck that scored 146.



Chris Alliff harvested a 170 class Nicholas Co buck. *Photo courtesy of Lucky's Outdoors in Summersville.*

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Lake Russell Event

For the 19th straight year, Ohio River and bass teams headed to Lake Russell for the Wright's Riverside Marine fun tournament. 26 anglers stayed in Elberton, Georgia for 7 days of fishing.

The anglers practiced for 3 days and competed in a money event the next 4 days. This event is hosted by Wright's Riverside Marine in St. Marys, WV. The winners names are featured on a tall trophy at their dealership.

A five fish limit is weighed each day. There is also a daily big bass pot each day.

Winning this year was Walker and Schwall with a 4 day weight of 45.14 pounds. Second place was the team of Baker and Lynch with 44.18 pounds. Third place was Chisolm and Isner.

Big bass for the tournament was Baker and Lynch with a 4.36 pound bass.

Another event is scheduled for next November. Big stories about the one that got away and lots of fun are had by all.



Dan Holdren (top) and Cec Schneider (bottom) landed huge stripers at Lake Russell during the tournament this November.



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2015 Fall Turkey Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Fall turkey hunters checked in 1,131 turkeys this fall from 33 open counties, according to Keith Krantz, wild turkey and upland game bird project leader for the West Virginia Division of Natu-

ral Resources (DNR). Leading the state, Randolph County hunters reported harvesting 114 birds, followed by Greenbrier (81), Preston (71), Nicholas (63) and Pocahontas (62) county hunters. Preston County hunters have a two-week season while the others in the top five counties had four-week seasons. The 14 "traditional" fall hunting counties accounted for 56 percent of the total fall harvest, which was very similar to previous years.

All six DNR districts were open to fall turkey hunting in 2015. District 3 led the state with a harvest

of 371 birds, followed by District 4 (208), District 2 (196), District 1 (185), District 6 (109) and District
continue to the next page



Brett Harrison's Mason County buck gross scored 183.



Steve Cayton, from Lost Creek, harvested a quality buck.



Isaac Adams had success with a Wood County buck.

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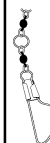
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5 (62).

"Fall turkey harvests are driven by a number of factors, including hunter participation, recruitment of turkeys into the population, and availability of hard mast," Krantz said. "Harvest is relatively low in many of our nontraditional counties because hunters there were likely bowhunting for deer and not fall turkey hunting. Harvest numbers, therefore, may not reflect relative abundance of turkeys in those counties."



Evan Lantz bagged a 10 point in Upshur County with a bow.



Delena Haught went to Taylor County for this nice 8 point buck.

**New WV Oil & Gas
 Publication**

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR), Wildlife Resources Section has published a guide titled Enhancing Wildlife Habitat on Oil and Gas Infrastructure. The purpose of this publication is to provide information regarding management activities that will provide or enhance wildlife habitat associated with well sites, pipelines and access roads.

Paul Johansen, Chief of the Wildlife Resources Section, recommends that landowners and indus-

continue to the next page



Jamie McGee used his bow for a quality 8 point buck.

25th Annual Full Moon Team Challenge

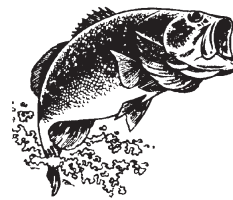
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ry use this non-regulatory guide to improve habitat for a variety of game and non-game wildlife. This includes those species that use the edges of developed areas, where natural habitats meet human habitats and animals and wildlife are forced to undergo significant changes to survive and adapt. It also includes early successional habitats, which relates to the changes in plant communities that result from man-made disturbances.

Supported by West Virginia University Extension Service, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, oil and gas industry representatives, the Ruffed Grouse Society and the National Wild Turkey Federation, this publication also provides contact information for technical assistance

from many other sources. It is available at all DNR District Offices and on the agency's website www.wvdnr.gov

www.wvasportsman.net



James Kemp, from Princeton, used a bow for a great 10 point buck.

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Elk Management

Plan For WV

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. - The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) has made the Draft West Virginia Elk Management Plan: 2016-2020 available for public review and comment. A

continue to the next page

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copy of the draft plan can be found on the DNR's website at: www.wvdnr.gov/Publications/Draft_Elk_Plan.pdf.

"The DNR developed its initial Elk Management Plan in 2011, which designated an elk management area in the southern coal fields region of West Virginia," according to Gary Foster, assistant chief in charge of Game Management. "Over the past five years the plan allowed for an elk population to become established within this area through the natural immigration of elk from Kentucky and Virginia into West Virginia. Now, we are proposing a modified strategy to be implemented over the next five-year period, with plans to restore a viable elk population through an elk translocation approach."

The DNR encourages the public to provide written comments on the Draft West Virginia Elk Management Plan: 2016-2020. Comments should be postmarked by Jan. 15, 2016, and mailed to: Public Comments - Elk Management Plan, WVDNR, P.O. Box 67, Elkins, WV 26241. Individuals seeking additional information relating to the plan should contact the DNR Elkins Operation Center at 304-637-0245.



Johnny Crockett went to Braxton County with a bow for an 8 point.



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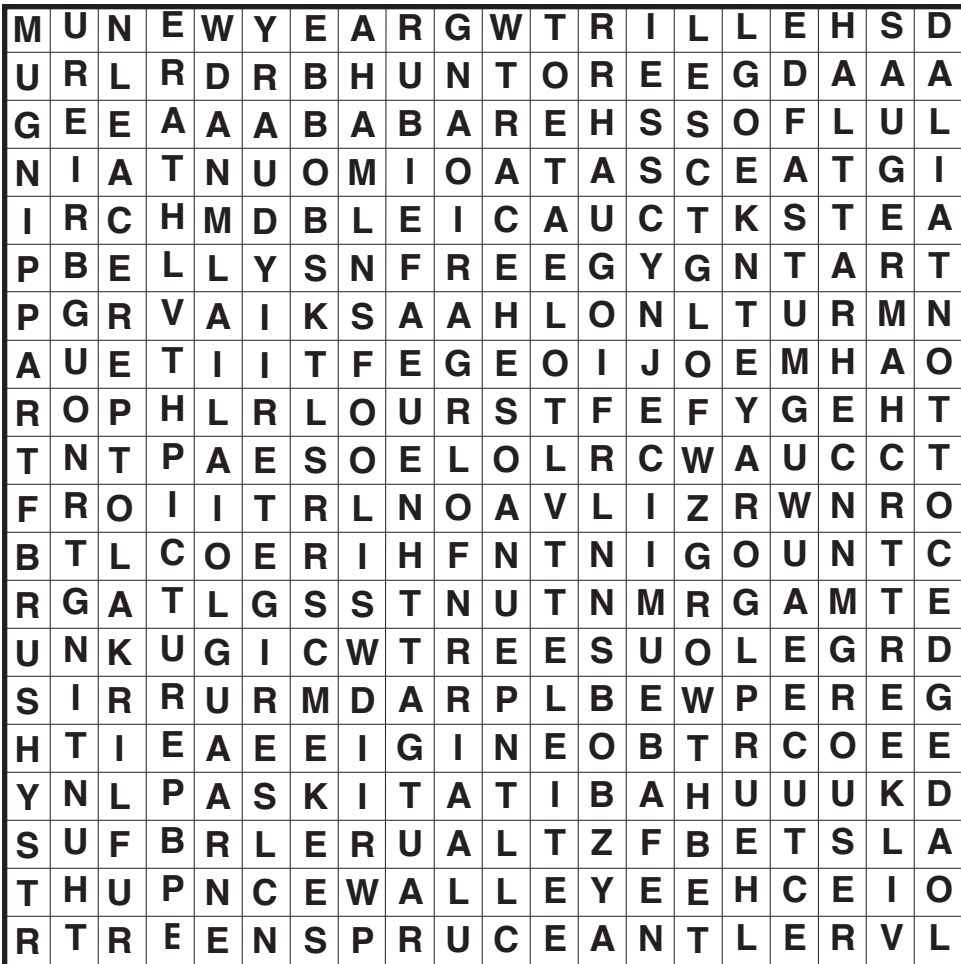
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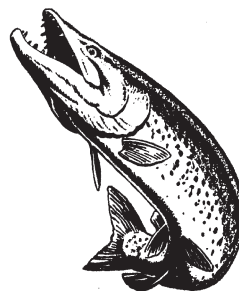
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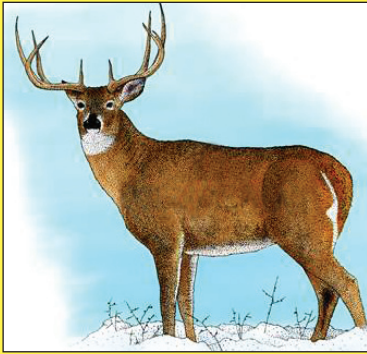


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