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

Fall Turkey Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – West Virginia turkey hunters harvested 1,113 birds during the fall season, according to preliminary figures provided by the Division of Natural Resources.

"As reported in the 2019 West Virginia Mast Survey and Hunter Outlook, this year's wild turkey brood observations were down slightly from last year, and we predicted the fall turkey harvest would also be lower," said Mike Peters, DNR game bird biologist.

This year's fall turkey harvest is only 8% below the 2018 season and the 10-year average. The number of birds harvested this year is on par with a typical fall season.



Adam Snyder harvested a nice 10 point. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins*.



Another contributing factor to this year's fall turkey harvest relates to mast conditions, which were slightly above the long-term average.

"Good mast conditions can disperse birds across the landscape and make it more difficult for hunters to harvest a bird," noted Peters.

"This is the fourth year all 55 counties had at least a one-week season and the second year that Sunday hunting was permitted in all 55 counties on both private and public land," Peters said. "This increase in opportunity seems to be having little impact on our wild turkey populations."

Leading the state was Greenbrier County with hunters harvesting 65 birds, followed by Randolph (61), Upshur (59), Monroe (56), and Nicholas County (51). All of these counties had a four-week season, except Upshur County which had a two-week season. District 3 harvested 284 birds, followed by District 4 (248), District 1 (186), District 6 (151), District 2 (130) and District 5 (114).

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Brandon Loy brought in a nice 9 point buck from Tyler County.





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2020 Hunting & Fishing License Contest

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Gov. Jim Justice announced today that West Virginians can purchase their 2020 hunting and fishing licenses earlier than ever before and also be entered to win a drawing for prizes. Beginning Sunday, anyone who purchases a 2020 Sportsman or Junior Sportsman license will automatically be entered to win a free lifetime license or a vacation get-



away at a West Virginia state park.

"As a lifelong hunter and fisherman myself, I know there is no better place in the world to enjoy the wonders of nature than right here in Almost Heaven West Virginia," Gov. Justice said. "This is truly a special opportunity for all West Virginians and I hope everyone who loves hunting and fishing in our great state takes a shot at winning this great prize."

Historically, hunting and fishing licenses weren't available until later in the year, but sales will begin early this year to allow for holiday gift purchases and early renewals.

"We're excited to offer this prize drawing, and we hope it reminds West Virginians to renew their licenses and encourages new outdoor enthusiasts to get a license," WVDNR Director Stephen Mc-Daniel said. "If you haven't hunted or fished in a few years or know continue to the next page



Harry Scarberry, from Letart, used a bow for a good buck.



someone who would enjoy it, this is a great opportunity to get back in the game or to help them get started on their outdoor adventure."

Prizes include a Lifetime Sportsman Hunting, Trapping and Fishing License (Class AB-L), four overnight stays at West Virginia State Parks, and eight gift bags filled with hunting and fishing gear. Winners will be announced in mid-January.

Licenses went on sale Sunday,



Dec. 1, 2019. Those who purchase a Sportsman Hunting, Fishing, and Trapping (Class X; Class XJ for ages 15-17) license before January 1, 2020, either online at www. wvhunt.com or through a licensed retailer, will be automatically entered to win. The prize drawing is sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Tourism Office.

To view prize descriptions, learn how to purchase a license as a gift, or see complete contest rules, visit www.wvdnr.gov/giveaway.



David Booth, from Bridgeport, caught a 6 1/2 pound bass.



Billy Killen and his daughter had success coon hunting.

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Crystal Crites brought in a great archery buck.

Winter Rabbit Hunting

Rabbits like this one stand out against the white snow making them easy to hunt in the winter. Rabbit hunting is fun and can be very exciting. Winter is a "prime time" for rabbit hunting because you can spot cottontails fairly easily against the snow.

Of course, it's a little tougher to spot Snowshoe hares in the winter because their pelts are white in the winter months... but, on the posi-



John Young had archery success with a nice Clay County buck.



tive side, they are somewhat larger, and provide more "meat for the table."

While every rabbit hunter has their own special "method," there are basically two ways to get that "bunny":

First, walk through the woods quietly and slowly, and spot out thickets, i.e. brush piles, old log piles, a downed tree, etc. If an area is clear-cut, look for a jumble of brush and branches. These are the places where rabbits live.

Most live under some type of brush pile (not too many are like Bugs Bunny eating a carrot in a hole), some rabbits indeed do live in holes, but the great percentage live in the thickets above ground. Rabbits always make sure they have several escape routes because predators seek them out in the same places you are working.

Try to "jump shoot" (that means surprise or "jump") the rabbits when they are out and about. Walk up on 'em, and they'll definitely recontinue to page 10



Bill Reynolds used a bow for a top quality buck.

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act to your presence by scooting out running. Watch ahead of you. Watch for movement. Hang around the brush areas. It's normal to want to shoot at the rabbit the instant it starts running, but DON'T! Almost 100 per cent of the time the rabbits will literally "run in a circle" and come back to where they just were -- and then they'll stop! This will give you a really good shot at a non-moving target!

Some of the more serious rabbit hunters use dogs. Beagles are real good for this as they're small, short continue to the next page



Andrea Adams bagged a Wood County 8 point buck.



Britney Kimbal got a huge racked 6 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Suppky in Middlebourne*.



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haired, and will get down in the brush easily, chasing rabbits back in a circle right to you. Just follow the beagles. Having said that, it's more relaxing and a lot quieter hunting rabbits without dogs. No barking or yelling -- it's nothing more than a personal observation and preference.

As for what to hunt with: "Traditionalists" like to use a bow and arrow. It's real. It's a challenge, and the wonderful natural silence of nature in the woods is unblemished.

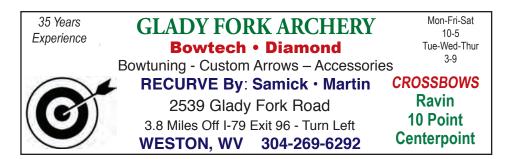
Most opt to use a shotgun when going after "Thumper." Use number five- to seven-size shot. A 20 gauge -- even a .410 is just fine. To



Colt Lesher used a crossbow in Fayette Co. for a great 10 point.



Angie Martin bagged a great 11 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Cross-roads General Store near Newark.*



use a 12-gauge Remington pump is overkill.

Many rabbit hunters don't like to use shotguns. They feel that the shot tears up the flesh on an already-small animal, and they don't want to pick lead pellets out of the meat after cooking. So they use a .22 long rifle. Works real good, but you do need be a pretty good "snap shooter" to use a .22, because there isn't a lot of time to aim, and people who aren't real skilled can, and do, miss with some consistency.

Shooting range will, of course, vary. Rabbits are not the brightest

of animals. You can get pretty much on top of them. They'll be right in front of you. Ten to twenty yards is great. Indeed, Phil Schweik reports many times where the rabbits have run right up to him!

A final note: Rabbits are infested with fleas which can be a turn-off when it comes to rabbit hunting. Here's a suggestion that may help alleviate the problem: After you've shot a rabbit, let its body "cool down" for a couple of hours... Fleas want "warmth," and after the rabbit is dead, most of the fleas will "jump ship" as soon as the body cools!



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Ryan Cullop, from Shady spring, brought in a nice bow buck.



Zane Yeater went to Tyler County for an archery 8 point buck.



Diane Jones bagged an unusual double throated deer/buck.





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Winter Bass Fishing

With the water temperatures getting colder and the bass getting lethargic it might seem like going finesse in the winter is obvious. It is to some, not so much to others. I'm in the first group.

Here's my game plan:

First off, let's wrap our heads around where the bass are going to be found in the winter. If you're fishing a river with current in it, they'll be in the deepest places where there is no current. If you're fishing a reservoir, they'll be on or close to the main lake or creek channel. In a natural lake they'll often go to the deepest and steepest banks in the lake.

Once you know where to look for the bass it's time to start thinking about how to catch them. I'm going to give you my four choices of lures — two reaction baits and two slower baits. They aren't the only ones that'll work, but they are the ones that have produced consistently for me over the years.

The Silver Buddy comes first in the reaction bait category. It's a simple blade bait that was designed by Buddy Banks and Billy Westmoreland for winter fishing on Dale Hollow Lake.

The most effective way to fish it is to make long casts and snap the bait up a foot or so off the bottom continue to the next page

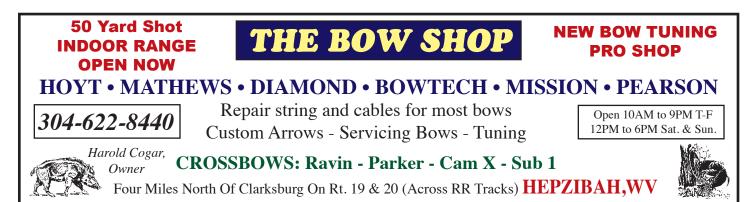




Bob Haught used a bow in Taylor County for a nice buck.



Chris Neff, from Paden City, caught a big brown trout recently.



before you let it fall back down on a semi-slack line. Most of your bites will come on the fall. The vibration of the blade bait makes them react, and the falling bait looks like a dying shad.

I fish Silver Buddy's on a Cashion Drop Shot Rod, a Daiwa Ballistic LT 3000 reel, 12-pound-test Sunline X-Plasma Asegai braid and an 8-pound-test Sunline Super FC Sniper fluorocarbon leader that's between 15 and 20 feet long.

My second offering is usually a 1/2- to 3/4-ounce spoon fished vertically. I fish a spoon like a Silver Buddy. The basic difference is that with a spoon you can get it directly over the fish you believe are down there. I say believe because sometimes they're sitting with their bellies right on the bottom. Sometimes you can't see them even with Lowrance electronics.

I fish my spoons on a Cashion 7 foot, medium heavy casting rod, a Daiwa Tatula 100 reel with a 7.3:1 gear ratio and 12-pound-test Sunline Super FC Sniper fluorocarbon.

My slower bait selections start with a Missile Jigs Ike's Micro Jig. I let it drop down to the bottom and then drag it along real slow. Think about the fact that nothing in cold water moves very fast. Your jig



Cheryl Zirkle got a buck with a wide rack. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

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shouldn't either. This jig is special because the skirt slowly flairs and moves like no other bait when it's

worked slowly. I like to fish my Micro Jig on a continue to the next



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Daiwa Ballistic LT 3000 reel spooled with 12-pound-test Sunline Xplasma Asegai braid and a 15 to 20 foot, 8-pound-test Sunline Super FC Sniper fluorocarbon leader.

I also fish a Damiki rig in the winter. It starts with a Damiki 3-inch Armor Shad jerkbait rigged on a 1/4- or 3/8-ounce jig head. It's best fished vertically. All I do is drop it down and hold it real steady a few feet off the bottom. Most winter bass are feeding up. If they're in the area, they'll come to it. It can be a really cool way to catch them because you often see the bass come up to the bait on your electronics before they even bite it.

I fish the Damiki rig on a 7 foot, 6 inch Cashion Spin Bait Rod. My reel is a Daiwa Ballistic LT 3000 reel spooled with 12-pound-test Sunline X-Plasma Asegai braid and a 15 or 20 foot 8-pound-test Sunline Super FC Sniper fluorocarbon leader.



Go armed with these four baits this winter and you'll be in good shape. I know it's cold, but if you catch a couple of good ones you'll warm right up.



Keith Conley caught a big catfish.



A large bow buck was taken in the southern part of the state

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Shelby Hinterer has a huge archery buck from Doddridge Co.

CORRECTION:

An article last month titled "A West Virginia Miracle" was written by Robert L. Fischer. The wrong name was used. Go To www.wvasportsman.net to see.



Interesting Hunting Facts

Archaic humans began hunting around 3 million years ago, and it has remained a part of our civilization since then. When archeologists discovered early evidence of our human ancestors' hunting activities, it became clear that adding meat to the diet meant big changes for early Homo sapiens. For example, skeleton size increased soon after, suggesting meat was important for evolution. Researchers believed early humans waited in trees for their prey to pass underneath, rather than chase after animals the way hunters in the classical and Renaissance periods generally did.

Bows and arrows were a universal method of hunting, except in Australia.

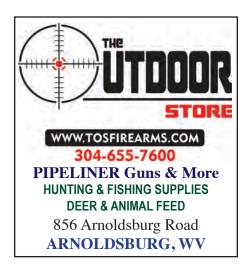
Hunting Men Facts

Weapon choices vary, but a bow and arrow are fairly traditional

Blowpipes, or blow guns, are some of the most dangerous weapons a hunter can use.

The Australian boomerang, now a popular toy and tourist gift, was originally a tool used for hunting.

When early humans hunted bigger game, like antelopes, they chose to eat only adults, leaving behind younger and older animals in the





herd.

Hunting may have helped establish traditional gender roles, as males were forced to learn to hunt more efficiently in order to feed their female mates and offspring.

When agriculture was introduced about 11,000 years ago, hunting became less important as people



Michael Brooks harvested a huge bow buck this season.

dedicated more time to cultivating crops.

Hunting is still important for people who live in areas where farming is impossible or very difficult, such as rainforests in South America or jungles in Southeastern Asia.

Artemis, daughter of Zeus, was the virgin Greek goddess of the hunt. Diana, the Roman equivalent of Artemis, guarded forests and the animals who lived there. continue to the next page



Zac Bolling's archery buck scored 146 and had long tines.



Mixcoatl was the Aztec god of hunting. To ensure a prosperous hunting season, the Aztecs performed human sacrifices.Aztec Hunting Sacrifice

Aztecs often made humans sacrifices to ensure the favor of the gods (we're curious about how they hunted those animals)

Dogs were most likely trained to hunt alongside humans in the ear-

ly Neolithic era, and some breeds were developed to hunt specific animals. Horses were raised to hunt starting in 2nd millennium. In ancient Egypt, hunters were a separate class, often hunting for nobles and aristocrats as well as on their own. The use of hunting dogs can be traced back to ancient Egypt, where greyhounds were used to track gazelles.



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"Coursing" is the use of hounds in hunting.

"Gun dogs" are dogs that hunt by scent and sight, and both fetch birds after they have been killed as well as sighting them before. Setters, spaniels, and pointers are the most common "gun dog" breeds.

During the Middle Ages, hunting as a sport was reserved for the rich and done on private lands owned by aristocrats.

Some hunting techniques in the early modern era involved putting animals in an enclosed space and allowing them to be killed outright with little effort.

In many early Northern European tribes, slaves were forbidden continue to page 20



Jeanne Hughes harvested a wonderful archery buck.

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Jonathan Harkness got his 1st bow buck - 10 point - in Ritchie County

from hunting since they were not allowed to own weapons or bear arms.

Hunting with firearms began in the 16th century.

The perils of duck hunting are great - especially for the duck.-Walter Cronkite

In 1515, the French government made hunting and poaching illegal for peasants.

Punishments for peasants who hunted on grounds owned by nobles included being sewn into a deerskin and chased by hunting dogs, who would kill the prey upon



capture.

Kings would often demonstrate their hunting ability for an audience of nobles. To do so, kings would have game brought to closed arena before shooting and killing it, rather than hunting it in the wild.

Nobility in medieval England hunted several animals, including the stag, the boar, and even otters

Queen Elizabeth I enjoyed hawkcontinue to the next page



Trey Anderson, from Fairmont, hooked a huge brown trout..



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(where prey is killed by trained hawks) as well as hunting.

Royal feasts in medieval and renaissance Europe often included wild boar and venison, sometimes killed by the king himself.

Red deer, fallow deer, and hares were hunted for their ability to lead a chase, an exciting change from waiting for prey to wander into range.

The French Revolution opened up lands for hunting, but the sudden free-reign of people on hunting grounds caused massive animal and ecosystem damage.

Foxes were initially hunted like vermin but were eventually hunted for sport.



Wolves were considered a type of vermin in early Europe. People were allowed to kill as many wolves as they could, whenever they could.



Caleb Morton (14) bagged a fine buck in Nicholas County.

Hunting Fact Wolves

Wolves were hunted to extinction in the UK, but species still remain in North America and in continental Europe

By 1770, wolves had become extinct in the British isles due to continue to the next page



Matt Garrett used a bow in Marion County for this great buck.

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Hide Hoops - European Mounts

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overhunting. In the 1800s, over-hunting had brought about the extinction of several species, prompting the introduction of the extensive game laws currently in place in Great Britain.

In the UK, nothing more deadly than a double-barreled shotgun is allowed as a hunting weapon, as the shooter can only unload two bullets before reloading, thus allowing prey the chance to escape.

It costs about \$20 and takes about 5 hours for the average deer hunter to secure one pound of venison.

The most common "trophy" animal (an animal meant to be killed and then displayed) in the United continue to page 25



Bev Amos got an archery 7 point. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



Cole Bentley took a good buck in Ritchie County.



















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States is the snow goose.

American hunters track and kill most of their trophy animals in Canada.

In Africa, the most common trophy animal is the lion, followed by the elephant and the leopard.

Samuel Colt, the man who created an empire selling hunting weapons, was said to have coined the phrase "new and improved."

Only five percent of Americans participated in hunting during the past five years, meaning the sport is on the decline.

Non-violent natural activities, such as nature photography and bird watching, are replacing hunting in popularity.

Hunting Conservation Fact

Somewhat ironically, money spent on hunting helps fund wildlife conservation efforts

Taxes on hunting licenses and equipment pay for 60% of wildlife agencies' expenses. Less hunting means less funding, which is a



John Cottrell, from Weston, harvested a quality buck.





concern for many state-run wildlife and recreational departments.

President Theodore Roosevelt, himself an avid hunter, helped create the "conservation through wise use" principle and encouraged other hunters to donate to causes that would preserve the land they hunted on.

New York sold its first deer hunting permit in 1864. President Roosevelt helped more states sell licenses, thus allowing for healthier revenue streams.

continue to the next page



Kyndra Rose was pleased with her buck this season.

Ξ

B A





In 1937, Congress passed legislation that required money earned from hunting licenses and products to be used for conservation efforts.

Almost a third of hunters in the United States are baby boomers.[9]

Most hunters retire from the sport by the age of 65.



Kayden Collins brought in a spike buck. *Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.*

Bear Hunting Opportunities

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Deer hunters are reminded that a concurrent bear season without dogs occured from Nov. 25 through Dec. 7, 2019, in 51 counties, according to Colin Carpenter, Black Bear Project Leader for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

All 51 counties that were open to buck firearms hunting will be open to concurrent bear hunting on private and public land during the buck season. Buck firearms season is closed in Logan, McDowell, Mingo and Wyoming counties.

"Counties that will be open for bear hunting during the buck gun season are above their management objective and need additional bears harvested to achieve their goal," Carpenter said. "Timing is critical when setting bear hunting seasons, and the concurrent buck gun bear continue to the page 29





Riley Douglas Crites caught a 19 3/4" smallmouth on the Elk River.



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Weston, West Virginia was once the hand blown glass capital of the world. Now it has two charming studios where you can watch the art of blowing glass. Appalachian Glass and WV American Art Glass masterfully blend traditional glass-making methods with the best of modern techniques. Then learn more about the deep history of West Virginia glass by stopping by. The West Virginia Museum of American Glass has a collection of more than 17,000 pieces.

At the Mountaineer Military Museum, you will experience some of the United States Military's unique moments while seeing the military of our country and the nation comes alive through a soldier's eyes.

Kick back and relax at Lambert's Winery, situated on a beautiful hillside in its own hand cut stone building where you can take a tour of the facility and enjoy a tasting while visiting the gift shop.

You may also visit the childhood home of Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson at WVU's Jackson Mills Farmstead. Here you will see an 1840's farmstead with a working gristmill, blacksmith's shop, buildings, cabins and more.

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season will occur when the maximum number of hunters are in the woods.

"Mast conditions in 2019 vary widely based on location. In many areas of the state, abundant red oak group mast will have bears dispersed across the landscape. These special seasons offer a unique opportunity for hunters who may have never bear hunted before to harvest a bear and we hope that they take advantage of this additional chance."

Bear hunting opportunities continue after the buck firearms season as well. All or parts of 24 counties will be open for bear hunting with or without dogs from Dec. 9-31. In addition, all or parts of 37 counties will be open for bear hunting without dogs from Dec. 9-31.



Cody Clary used a bow in Cabbell County for a fine buck.



Cookie Tingler got a nice 8 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins*.

Successful hunters are required to submit a first premolar tooth from each harvested bear. Information on how to collect and submit a black bear first premolar tooth can be found on page 37 of the 2019–2020 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary. In addition, hunters who harvest a female black bear are encouraged to save the reproductive tract or all the entrails. The DNR will offer hunters who submit a complete reproductive tract a \$20 gift card for their effort.

Hunters with reproductive tracts or entrails should keep them cool or freeze them and contact their nearest district wildlife office or Elkins Operations Center to arrange dropoff. Hunters can get a bear tooth envelope and information on what a complete reproductive tract consists of at all district offices or the Elkins Operations Center. Data ob-

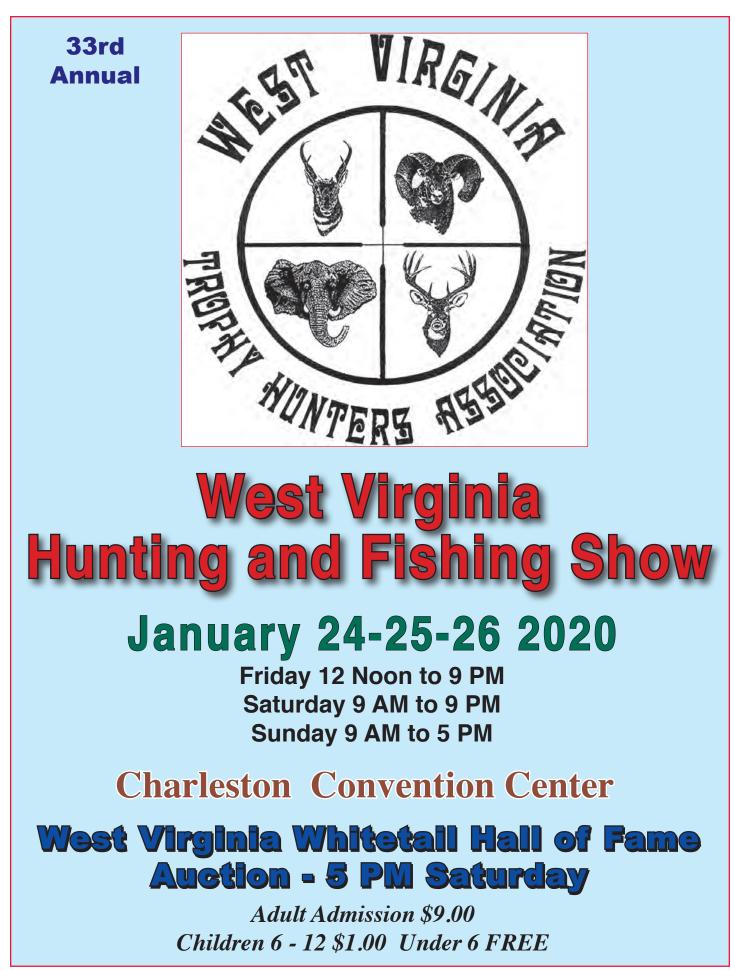


tained from tooth samples and reproductive tracts are used for black bear population monitoring.

Hunters are reminded to purchase their bear damage stamp, as well as an appropriate hunting license. Details concerning bear hunting seasons can be found on pages 35-40 of the 2019–2020 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary, which is available at DNR offices, license vendors across West Virginia and wvhunt.com.



Dec/Jan 2019/2020 ~ Page 29



Bow Hunting Late Season Bucks

The flood of buck pictures on Facebook has ceased. The gun shots have stopped and orange hats have returned to their long dark year in a box. You may be getting nervous with that tag burning a hole in your pocket. Fortunately for you, this is one of the best times to bow hunt! Sure some bucks have been shot, hopefully not your mature shooter... but there are still a lot left out there. Late season and the post rut are when bucks develop a pattern again, exploiting this during the late bow hunting season is easy...if you know how and where to look. Core area

With the cold biting wind and snow setting in, the buck restricts his movements back into his core area...and yes he still has breeding on his mind when the chance is given to him. The cold and hunting pressure have pushed his pre-rut home range expansion back into his small and safe core area. This makes him easy to pattern but hard to get close to, especially while bow hunting.

Bow Hunting Late Season Bucks-





Food



Justin Auville brought in a nice 10 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.*

With a lot of body weight lost by fighting and breeding (approximately 20-30%), the cold temperacontinue to the next page



Joey Simkins had success with an 8 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne*.



tures setting in, and maybe even some deep snow to push through a buck will have a hard time ignoring food sources. Great early successional habitat filled with species like blackberries or black raspberries, a standing corn field, standing soybeans, or a plot of brassicas make extremely enticing buffets for the weary buck. Holding off your temptation to plant food plots for the early season or rut and instead focusing on the late season can draw deer to that plot from miles around. They become hotspots for deer activity. Both the food and the does/doe fawns feed-



Jocelyn Murray, from Waverly,got her 1st buck with a crossbow.



Becky Westbrook used a crossbow for a 9 point Wood Co. buck.

ing on it will bring monsters out of the thick white timber.

Last chance breeding

You wouldn't pass up a chance to breed...right? Neither would a buck. While he might stick to what he knows (food and cover) in his core area during the late season, a fresh scent of a hot doe will get him going again.

This "second rut" starts and gets hunters fired up again, but what is different this time? While the majority of a second rut is un-bred or late does coming in, some (depending on your areas sex ratios) are fawns. If fawns reach the crucial weight for your area (averages 65lbs. for the Midwest) before winter they will are able to breed.

What is better than a buck blindly chasing a hot doe? How about continue to page 34

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chasing a 7 or 8 month old fawn, with hardly any knowledge of hunters or their scent! Crack at the nocturnal ghost

If you run trail cameras throughout the season chances are you have had one...that giant that will only come out at night. Year after year this buck plays it safe by waiting for the cover of darkness to fall before leaving his bedding area. He is the first out of the field in the morning being sure to get to cover before daylight, and the last to enter the field when the sun is setting. continue to the next page

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Hunter Ayers has an 8 point with a perfect rack from Doddridge Co.



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Josh Compton dropped a quality buck from Ritchie Co.

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Brutal cold temperatures and snow are the only thing that could possibly kill him this late in the game, and now is the time for it. If the buck is smart enough to move only at night, you can bet that he will be smart enough to know that he needs to feed and travel during a portion of the daylight hours to sustain his body through the upcoming months.

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Minimal disturbance

By now bucks are extremely sensitive and they won't tolerate sloppy hunters. They have been pressured all season long...maybe even shot at a couple times. Giving them space and hunting smart is the best way to approach the post rut while bow hunting.

Paying attention to wind and



JR Nesbitt arrowed a wide racked buck. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins*.



scent control is only the first step. Your entrance and exit into a stand or food plot is crucial. If you can't sneak in without busting deer, you have to force yourself not to hunt continue to the next page



Emma Carr got an 11 point in Randolph County.





that spot. You also need to think of your disturbance throughout the entire hunting season, not just the last month. If you give into the obsession to check cameras and hunt over your food plots throughout the early season and rut you will over pressure your stands. That being said... this is your last chance, so what are you to do?

With everything you now know about a post-rut/late season buck's movements and his thinking behind it...what are your options?

You can either play it safe by sticking to your afternoon food source hunt, or you push in deep to his core area, trying to catch his daylight movement out of his bedding area. So....which is it? Why don't you let the professional decide?

No not a biologist or TV show host...a trail camera. They are always right. Setting out trail cameras is your best option. Setting out cameras over the food sources and funnels/highway runs outside the bedding areas leading to those food sources will reveal when and



where to hunt. If he moves in the last 20 minutes of light past your camera outside the bedding area he isn't reaching that food source in time, forcing your hand to go all-in. If you catch him in the food source then you can play it safe and with a couple afternoon hunts you will get your shot while bow hunting the late season.

wvasportsman.net



Ed Larabee, from Charleston went to Clay County for a good buck.





Billy Lesher used a bow in Fayette County for his 8 point buck.



Chuck Britton, from St. Marys bagged a nice 8 point buck.





Mark Goudy, owner of this magazine, shot a nice 8 point in Ritchie County.



Gerald Caltrider used his crossbow for a Ritchie County 10 point.



Cooper McCloy harvested an 8 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton*.



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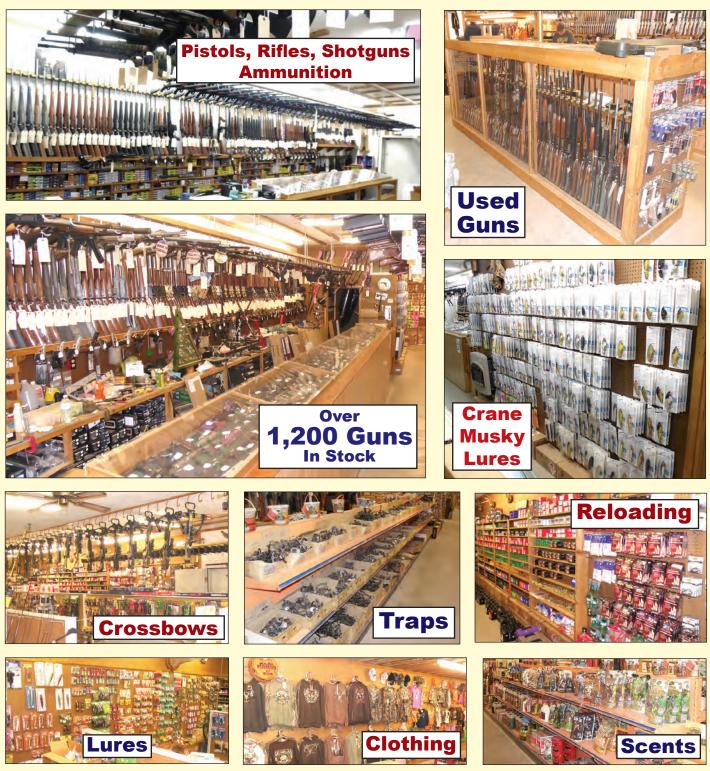
Matt Summers got a nice 7 point on the last day of gun/buck season.

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