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Issue 314

February/March 2024

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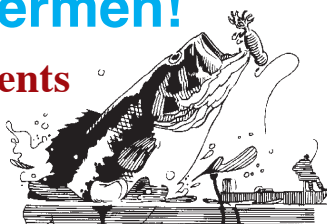
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## Cover Photo

A very typical 12 point bow buck was harvested by Braxton County native, Chris Davenport.

This Braxton County quality buck scored 178 3/8 on the Pope & Young score.

Looking for your big game pictures from the 2023 season. You can text, email or mail them in. There is a form on page 38 with information.

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# 2023 Black Bear Harvest

BECKLEY, W.Va. — Gov. Jim Justice and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced today black bear harvests in West Virginia dramatically increased in 2023.

“I couldn’t be more proud because this is further proof that West Virginia is a hotspot for bear hunters,” Gov. Justice said. “The success of this program is a testament to the hard work of our WVDNR team and everyone who is making our state a hunting destination. Keep up the great work.”

During the 2023 archery and firearms seasons for black bear, West Virginia hunters harvested 2,830 bears, which was a 64 per-

cent increase over the 1,727 bears harvested in 2022.

“This impressive black bear harvest just goes to show that West Virginia has a wealth of hunting opportunities beyond the popular deer seasons,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion.

WVDNR wildlife biologists projected increased black bear harvests for the state’s archery and crossbow season and firearms season in the 2023 Mast Survey and Hunting Outlook. Both projections came true and can be at-

continue to the next page



Jeremy Burroughs, from Heaters, used his bow for a black bear.



Rick Farley got a great bow double tined buck in Logan County.

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Caleb Robinson used a bow for a buck. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.



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ributed to favorable mast conditions.

“The statewide mast index for all species combined in 2023 was up 15 percent compared to 2022,” said Colin Carpenter, black bear project leader for WVDNR. “The best hard mast production in 2023 was recorded for red and black oak, which was up 138 percent over 2022, and scarlet oak, which was up 108 percent over 2022.”

**2023 Black Bear Harvest Numbers at a Glance**

Hunters harvested 1,898 bears during the firearms season and 932 bears during the first segment of the 2023 archery and crossbow season, from Sept 30 to Nov 19.

Hunters harvested 470 bears with vertical bows and 462 bears with crossbows. The top five counties for archery harvests were Fayette

(83), McDowell and Wyoming (71), Nicholas (62), Raleigh (59) and Greenbrier (55).

Hunters harvested 538 bears with a firearm in September and October (140 bears during the September youth, class Q/QQ and XS seasons, 10 bears during the October youth, class Q/QQ and XS seasons and 48 bears during the concurrent antlerless deer/bear season). Hunters also harvested 352 bears during the concurrent buck firearms and bear season and 1,007 bears during the traditional December season. One bear was harvested by a muzzle-loader during the Mountaineer Heritage Season in January. The top five counties for firearms harvests were Boone (152), Nicholas (144), Randolph (133), Pocahontas (124) and Kanawha (124).

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Becky Carter, from Troy, used a gun for her 8 point buck.

A black and white illustration of a largemouth bass with its mouth open, showing its teeth. To the left of the fish is a spinner lure with two blades and a skirt.

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## WV DNR 2023 Big Buck Photo Contest

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) on Friday announced the winners of the state's third annual Big Buck Photo Contest during the opening ceremony of the West Virginia Hunting and Fishing Show at the Charleston Coliseum and Convention Center.

The 19 winners included five resident youths, five resident adults, four non-resident youths and five non-resident adults who were selected from a list of 55 finalist

“West Virginia’s hunting tradi-

tions are a big part of what makes our state so special and the Big Buck Photo Contest is just one of the ways we celebrate that heritage,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion. “I want to thank everyone who participated in the contest because your contributions not only help us showcase the excellent hunting opportuni-

ties in our state but will help us keep our outdoor tradition alive for generations to come.”

The Big Buck Photo Contest, which was sponsored again this year by the WVDNR and West Virginia Department of Tourism, was announced in November 2023 by Gov. Jim Justice. Over

continue to page 8



Monte Boytek, from Chapmanville, is one of the DNR winners.



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the last three years, the contest has received nearly 2,500 submissions

“Seeing families bonding over campfires, young hunters proudly displaying their first deer, and photographers capturing West Virginia’s breathtaking scenery through their lenses – these are the moments that truly warm my heart as a lifelong outdoorsman,” Gov. Justice said. “I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the winners of our contest and thank everyone who shared their passion for West Virginia’s incredible hunting seasons. These stories prove, beyond any doubt, that West Virginia offers not just

thrilling hunting, but also unparalleled natural beauty, shared tra-

ditions, and lasting memories. It’s  
continue to page 10



Monica Smith, from Buckhannon, is a DNR photo winner.



Raymond Adkins, from Forest Hill, is also a DNR photo winner.



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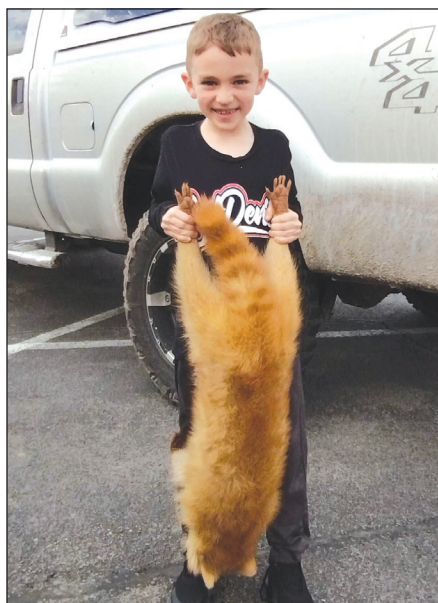


ditions, and lasting memories. It's truly Almost Heaven."

The contest was open to residents and nonresidents and included a youth division for hunters 17 years of age and younger and an adult division for hunters 18 years of age and older. To enter, hunters were required to submit a photo with a buck they harvested during a 2023 hunting season along with a short account of their hunt. Each entrant was required to show proof of a valid 2023 West Virginia Hunting License and had to include their personal 13-digit DNR-issued game check number.

Finalists were chosen by random drawing from all eligible entries and winners were selected by a judging committee. Winning photos were selected based on photo composition, size of the buck's antlers, number of antler points and how well the hunt was described.

The five resident youth winners will all receive one lifetime hunt-  
continue to page 31



Young Cole Milhoan, from Murfreesville, brought in a big blonde boar raccoon. *Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.*

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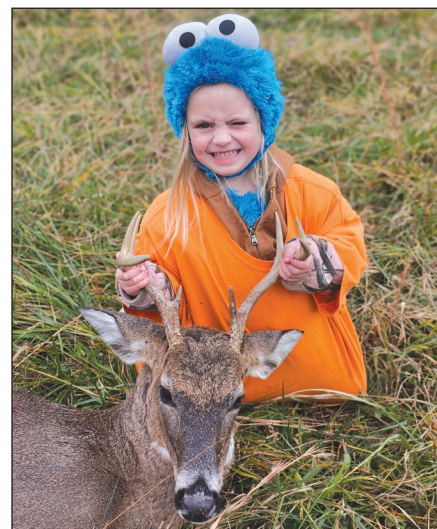
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Zack Gill, from Ballard, is one of the DNR photo contest winners.



Gracie Harper, from Friendly, was a youth winner in the contest.

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# WV DNR Elk Stocking

LOGAN, WV — Gov. Jim Justice and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced today the successful transport of 17 elk to the Tomblin Wildlife Management Area in Logan County. The elk will be evaluated and held for a short period of time before being released into the wild, bringing the state's growing elk population up to 127.

"As Governor, I'm thrilled to announce that West Virginia's elk population has reached an incredible 127 animals," Gov. Justice said. "Since our reintroduction efforts began several years ago, these majestic creatures have re-

turned to grace our state, enriching our ecosystem and offering unparalleled outdoor experiences. This achievement is a testament to the tireless efforts of our dedicated DNR staff, whose commitment to conservation is truly commendable. We remain committed to further expanding our elk population, fostering tourism, and ensuring a vibrant future for these iconic animals in West Virginia."

"As we restore West Virginia's elk population after a century of extirpation, we are reminded that our state's natural resources are a great treasure and that the abundance of wildlife calling these hills home need our protection," WVDNR Director Brett McMillion said.

This elk transport comes just two

weeks after Gov. Jim Justice announced that the WVDNR would add 40 new elk to the state's herd in 2024 and create a visitors center and observation tower in Logan County to help tourists and wildlife enthusiasts view elk in a natural setting. A second transport of 23 elk is scheduled to take

continue to the next page



Debi Gipson hooked a nice catfish from the Kanawha River in 2023.



John Smarr caught 2 big crappie in February. Get some bass later.

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place in February.

All 40 elk scheduled to be released this year will be transported from the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area in Kentucky. Partner agencies involved in the capture and release include the West Virginia Depart-

ment of Agriculture, the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The WVDNR launched its Elk Restoration Project in 2016 with the release of 24 elk acquired from the Land Between the

Lakes. Since 2018, the WVDNR has introduced 57 elk (15 from Kentucky and 42 from Arizona) to the Tomblin Wildlife Management Area in Logan County.

To raise awareness about its elk restoration project, the WVDNR has offered guided elk tours in Logan County where participants can learn more about the history of elk in West Virginia and get a chance to see elk in a natural setting. Tours are offered in September and October each year and often sell out.

To learn more about the WVDNR's elk restoration program, visit [WVdnr.gov/elk](http://WVdnr.gov/elk). To download a copy of the WVDNR's Elk Management Plan, visit [WVdnr.gov/publications-and-guides](http://WVdnr.gov/publications-and-guides).

Editors not: I'll probably be the first to hit one with my vehicle.



Ed Bryan caught a quality large-mouth bass in December.



Alex Goff caught a big yellow perch by accident.

# Five New Fish Species For State Records

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) today announced the availability of updated fishing regulations online at [WVdnr.gov/fishing-regulations](http://WVdnr.gov/fishing-regulations).

“Whether you’re a West Virginia resident casting a line in a familiar lake or stream or a non-resident visiting on vacation, West Virginia offers the angling public a myriad of exciting opportunities, all within easy driving distance of each other,” said WVDNR Director Brett McMillion.

Anglers are reminded that West Virginia’s fishing regulations for 2024 went into effect on Jan. 1. Updates include changes to regulations regarding sauger and saugeye limits, blue catfish minimum

size limits and channel catfish possession limits. Print versions of the regulations are also available at district offices and license retailers around the state.

The WVDNR also announced the creation of new state record fish categories for black crappie, redbreast sunfish, redear sunfish, pumpkinseed sunfish and red-horse suckers. For a complete list of all state record fish categories and instructions for reporting a catch, anglers should consult page 23 of the fishing regulations.

All anglers 15 years and older are required to have a West Virginia fishing license and a valid form of identification while fishing. A trout stamp is required for catching trout. Licenses and stamps can be purchased at 156

retail locations across the state or at [WVfish.com](http://WVfish.com).

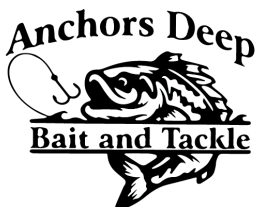
To learn more about fishing opportunities and trout stockings in West Virginia, visit [WVdnr.gov/fishing](http://WVdnr.gov/fishing).



Gary Ross brought in a nice 8 point Lewis County gun buck.

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Jordan Horocks, from Dixie, arrowed a huge whitetail buck.

## Early Fishing History

Numerous archaeological findings in Southern and Western Europe, South Asia and Africa suggest that the initial fish hunting skills were already at the early Paleolithic culture creators - Neanderthals. Numerous fish bones found in cave dwellings Fore, confirm that the fish was included in the diet of ancient man.

However there are no devices for fishing, related to the period were found. Apparently, the Neanderthal relied on the natural intuition and dexterity. History Of Fishing Much later (in the Mesolithic Period, about 10.5 thousand years before. Er.) among the other artifacts (things made by man) appear the implements for fishing gear. Since that time fishing gear (hooks, harpoons, etc.) have not undergone fundamental transformations, but the materials for their manufacture have been changed fundamentally.

In the Neolithic Age (about 3.8 thousand years BC. Er.) value of fisheries has increased. Major continue to the next page

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Tasha Reel got a wide racked Doddridge buck. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.



settlements arose on the banks of reservoirs. The river at that time were the main transport arteries and the boats were the main transportation. Live near the water and do not fish was impossible. Apparently, the fishing at that time was as important as hunting. Probably hunting for the fish that inhabit ponds, and animals on land started at about the same time. Man hunt for a land animals and larger fish, which are splashed near the shore.

The oldest known painting is an Egyptian angling scene of about 2000 BC shows figures fishing with rod, line and with nets. Greek philosophers Plato, Herodotus and Aristotle mentioned angling in their writings, and another Greek writer, Plutarch, gave tips about fishing lines. Plutarch in his "Comparative biographies" of famous Greeks and Romans captured the event in fishing between Cleopatra and Antony. It is known that the Romans organized the competition for fisheries. Homer in his famous "Iliad" describes angling on bait. In the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD, Roman rhetorician Claudius Aelian wrote



Amy Gordon used a compound bow in Mason County for a buck.



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about Macedonian trout anglers using artificial flies as lures in the II century. A Chinese account of about the 4th century BC refers to fishing with a silk line, a hook made from a needle, and a bamboo rod, with cooked rice as bait.

References to fishing are also found in ancient Greek, Assyrian, Roman, and Jewish writings.

Significant contribution to the development of fishing rods was made by the British. By the middle

continue to the next page



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Jeff Moore used a muzzleloader in Braxton Co. for a great 9 point.

of the XV century fishing Tackle in England have been brought to such perfection that angling was considered both a science and an art. In 1496 the book A Treatise of Fishing with an Angle gave specific details for the first time in English about the use of the fishing rod. The book describes the construction of hooks and rods for angling. For about 150 years it was the basis of angling knowledge in England.

In 1653, English angler Isaac Walton published The Complete Angler, or the Contemplative Man's Recreation, the most influential book ever published about fishing. In The book Walton describes the art of constructing tackle, the science of basic aquatic biology, and the philosophy of recreational anglers. The first period of great improvement came about the mid-17th century, when Isaac Walton and Charles Cot-

ton were writing the classic The Complete Angler and Col. Robert Venables and Thomas Barker were describing new tackle and methods of fishing.

About this time some unknown angler attached a wire loop or ring at the tip end of the rod, which allowed a running line, useful for both casting and playing a hooked fish. Barker in 1667 mentions a salmon-fishing line of 26 yards. What was obviously needed was a means of taking up and holding such lengths and this led to the invention of the reel.

Early Rods And Reels

continue to page 18



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The idea of creating a semblance of modern pole float rods could come in the primitive man's head resting on the shore of the reservoir, which is seen as a hungry fish greedily grabbing incident on the surface of insects. Apparently, it could come an idea to try to catch a fish with edible bait. Prototype of the modern fishing lines

could be plant fibers or animal sinews, and as the hook can be used sharp stone or a sharpened twig of a tree that can pierce into the fish mouth.

Judging by stone inscriptions, fishing rods go back to ancient Egypt, China, Greece, Rome and medieval England, where they were called "angles" (hence the

term "angling" as a synonym for fishing). These early fishing rods were made of wood, bone or stone. The simplest rods were made out of a tree branch, from split Tonkin bamboo, Calcutta reed, or ash wood, as it was necessary that they be made light, tough, and pliable. The butts were frequently made of maple, with bored bottom; this butt outlasted several tops. Handles and grips were generally of cork, wood, or wrapped cane. Guides were made of simple wire loops or, later, loops with ring-shaped agate inserts for better wear.

Look for Part 2 on the History of Fishing in the next issue.

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Trey Anderson reeled in a large golden trout.

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## Great Trout Fishing Spots In WV

West Virginia has gotten a lot of mileage out of its “Almost Heaven” slogan. But when it comes to trout fishing, it’s hard to argue with that designation.

Trout streams in the Mountain State are not only some of the best in the East but some of the most beautiful. The hundreds of miles of rivers and creeks that crisscross West Virginia’s rugged landscape provide the perfect home for these

cold water-dwellers.

Wild populations of brown and rainbow trout are widespread, and many streams harbor wild brook trout as well. All three species, along with the “golden” rainbow trout developed in West Virginia hatcheries in the 1950s, are also stocked in well over 100 waterways.

Spring and fall are prime trout seasons in West Virginia, and most stocking takes place from January through May.

### Elk River

The Elk River is high in the running for the title of West Virginia’s best trout stream and is widely viewed as one of the best in the eastern United States. A 172-mile tributary of the Kanawha River, the Elk is formed by the confluence of several small forks in the community of Slaty Fork.

Most of the Elk River is a warm-water stream, populated by small-mouth bass and panfish, but the upper end is blue ribbon trout water, with robust populations of wild rainbow and brown trout.

It’s common to catch individuals of either species that measure 20 inches, and browns occasionally get even bigger. Native brook trout are available as well, and

continue to the next page



Vada Hatcher fished in the tailwater below Sutton Dam for a nice 23” golden trout.



Eddy Canter landed a 9 1/2 lb. rainbow. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*



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some hatchery trout are stocked in the Webster County section.

The Elk River has some unique features due to the region's karst topography. Most notably, the river disappears underground for about 5 miles. Sections immediately above and below the underground section, known as the Elk

River Dries, are of particular interest to anglers.

The first 3.5 miles from the river between its headwaters and the point where it disappears offer some of the best trout fishing. This stretch is a cobble-bottomed limestone spring creek with deep holes and plenty of hefty trout.

Part of the reason the upper stretch is so good is that it's hard to reach. You have to take quite a hike to get here, following the old railroad line that parallels the river.

There's also great fishing and easier access farther down. This  
continue to the next page



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area gets a lot more fishing pressure, but the 2 miles from where the river reappears at Elk Springs to Whittaker Falls are still excellent.

Both of the aforementioned sections are catch-and-release with artificial lures only. Small Blue-Winged Olives hatch from March through May and September through November. You'll also see some March Browns in April-May, Sulphurs in May-June, and Green Drakes in June.

### Seneca Creek

Just shy of 10 miles long, Seneca Creek is a tributary that feeds the North Fork of the South Branch Potomac River. It offers small-stream fishing at its finest, with

healthy populations of wild brook trout and wild rainbow trout.

The appeal of Seneca Creek comes not only from its scrappy wild trout but from its picturesque setting. The creek flows through the Seneca Creek Backcountry of Monongahela National Forest and is bounded on either side by tow-

ering trees and, in places, craggy gorge walls.

Seneca Creek is a small and relatively high gradient stream, dropping 1,400 feet in its initial 'gorge' section. It plunges over numerous waterfalls interspersed with deep, still pools.

continue to page 24



Jason Garretson reeled in a quality 27 1/2" rainbow trout.

## Join NOW! LICK RUN



Lick Run Hunt Club is located in **Webster County**, West Virginia and encompasses over **8000** acres near the community of Hacker Valley. The Club is home to deer, turkey, bear and squirrel. Our members are invited to stay and camp and enjoy the many activities within the Club as well as the surrounding areas. Lick Run Hunt Club emphasizes the outdoor experience in a private setting with beautiful mountain scenery.

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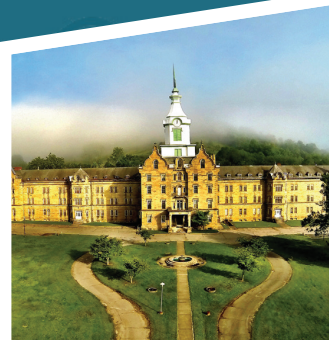
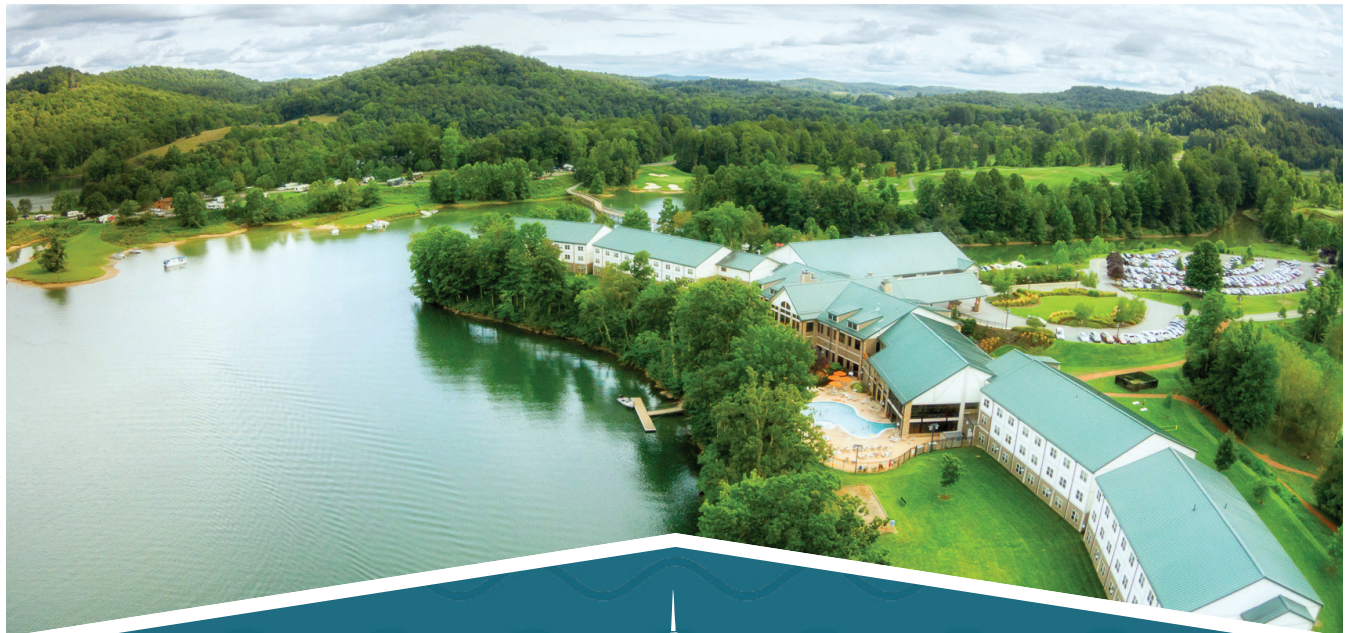


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Riffles and rocky stretches are also abundant, providing a lot of different types of water for fly anglers to ply. It's common to find rainbow trout in and around the fast water and brookies in the slower areas.

Access is easy, but getting to the best water requires some hiking. The Seneca Creek Trail and Allegheny Mountain Trail each provide access to portions of the stream, and the farther you get from the trailheads, the less pressured and better the fishing will be.

Working your way upstream



Sam Starkey, from Clarksburg, reeled in a nice 2024 trout.



Casey Drake collected a huge bobcat from their trap.

while making short upstream casts is the best approach most of the time. Seneca Creek doesn't produce a lot of trophies, but the trout are healthy, abundant, and often willing to pounce on generic fly patterns.

They may be especially eager in times of low water, which concentrates trout in pools and gets them in a more competitive feeding mode. For fly anglers, nymphing does the job more often than not. Small spinners and Trout Mag-

nets also work for spin anglers.

There are a wide variety of insect hatches here, but none are particularly abundant. Trout tend to be opportunistic in Seneca Creek but may key in on caddis or stoneflies at times. Beetles and other terrestrials can be excellent in summer.

### Cranberry River

The Cranberry River was once one of the most celebrated wild trout streams in West Virginia, but acid runoff took a heavy toll.

continue to page 26

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Thanks to limestone treatments and ample stocking by the West Virginia DNR starting in the late 1980s, the Cranberry has been making a comeback.

Long story short, the Cranberry River isn't the river it was in its storied heyday. But it's better than it's been in decades.

These days, you're more likely to catch stocked rainbows than wild brook trout, but you'll probably catch something. The Cranberry River has more trout per acre than any stream in West Virginia.

It also still feels kinda-sorta wild. Much of the river is encompassed by the Cranberry Wilderness and is accessible only on foot or by bicycle. It still gets fairly intense angler pressure during the heavy stocking months of January through May.

The river has been broken into several sections with varying regulations, including three catch-and-release-only sections. The catch-and-release section from Woodbine to Camp Sprinter, just over a mile long, is one of the best.

If you're after wild brookies, your best bet is to head upriver to the Cranberry's North and South

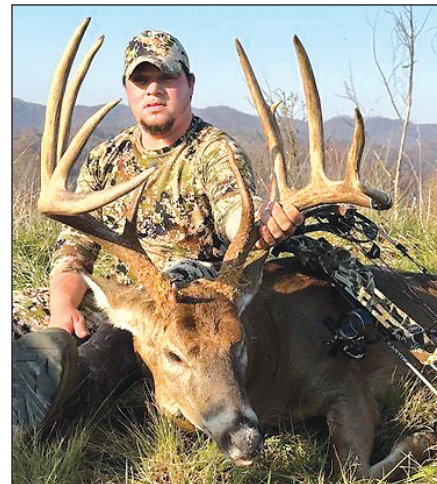
Forks and the Dogway Fork. The latter is fly fishing only, one of only six rivers with that designation in West Virginia.

Overall, the Cranberry River is not a challenging river to fish. It has a lot of long riffles and pools, with an abundance of scattered boulders that break up the river and create pockets. Trout often fall for generic fly patterns like Attractors and Hare's Ears.

Midges are also a big part of the trout diet here, and Blue Winged Olives are the most prominent mayfly hatch. They often emerge in good numbers in both spring and fall. Cinnamon Caddis and Green Sedges are plentiful in summer.

Shavers Fork of the Cheat River  
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continue to the next page

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**Details On Page 3**



Jason Spurlock bow hunted in Logan Co. for a 183 scoreable buck.



7 year old Addi Miller used a crossbow. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



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the Blackwater River.

### BLACKWATER RIVER

This 7.33-mile section of the Blackwater River in Otter Creek WMA is an ideal trout stream thanks to its high elevation and its proximity to Blackwater Falls and Blackwater Falls State Park. Because of this, the Blackwater River is an ideal fishing spot for people who want to enjoy a fall getaway.

But when it comes to fall trout fishing, don't miss your chance

to cast a line in a stocked lake or stream. Here are a few fishing streams and lakes stocked with trout that we think you'll enjoy this Fall.

### UPPER GUYANDOTTE RIVER

This 14-mile long section of the Guyandotte River is a pristine trout stream located between Mullens and Pineville. Located outside Twin Falls Resort State Park, the upper Guyandotte provides excellent trout fishing all year. This stream is a new trout

stocking location, officially added to the schedule in 2021 during a ceremonial stocking of rainbow trout.

### NORTH FORK SOUTH BRANCH OF THE POTOMAC RIVER

This 35.02 mile-section of the Potomac River's South Branch in Grant and Pendleton County runs through Seneca Rocks and is known for its scenic beauty, stunning mountain views and easy access points for casting your line. The stream is stocked downstream, from Judy Gap to 1/2 mile above the junction of South Branch, near Cabins. WV Rt. 28 parallels the stream along this section.

### WATOGA LAKE

The 12-acre Watoga Lake is stocked with rainbow, golden, brook and brown trout and provides a great opportunity for all anglers, experienced and novice alike, to enjoy fall trout fishing. Fishing is accessible even to those with limited mobility.



James Williams, from Fayetteville, got a late season bow buck.



Cole Collins archery hunted in Wyoming County.

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## Winter Bassin' In Florida

It seems like half of the bass fishing world goes to Florida this time of year.

And why not? Most of the country is languishing in cold or unpredictable weather while Floridians complain if the temperature dips below 65 degrees.

More importantly, it's a good place to catch a giant bass.

Of course, it's tournament season in Florida and that attracts a

lot of boats. There are a few big tournaments going on here in the winter.

But you don't have to be a tournament angler to enjoy Florida fishing. It's the bigger lakes that draw the larger events, but Florida is blessed with literally hundreds of lakes that have big bass.

I like south Florida and have gone to Okeechobee – the Big O – darn near every year since 1982. The lake has changed a lot in the past 10 years. If you haven't been there in a while, you would be amazed at the difference. Nearly all of the submerged vegetation is gone. There's hardly any eel grass, pepper grass or hydrilla.

I'm told it's because they are spraying the grass every day. Due to dike repairs on the south end of the lake, the water level is held at 16 feet above sea level, which is higher than normal.

continue to the page 30

Feb/March 2024 ~ Page 28



Jesse Hatfield arrowed a great double tined Mingo Co. buck.



Mathew Brown caught some nice early 2024 Bluestone smallies.



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Despite that, fishing can still be good there, and it still takes big sacks to win. The problem is that the fish are congregated in about four or five areas around the lake.

There are smaller lakes north of there that produce good fishing. Stick Marsh is one, but Garcia, Kenansville and Headwaters lakes can be good too. Of course, there are many more – too many to mention – that don't get much fishing pressure. However, I will warn you that to get to several of the ramps on these little lakes you must travel several miles down dirt roads. Be sure to cover your rig before making the trip and plan on washing it afterwards because it will get very dirty!



Brittany Lowell has a very typical crossbow 8 point buck.



Mikey Brown used a compound bow for a deluxe Logan Co. buck.

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If you prefer fishing bigger, more prominent lakes, the Kissimmee Chain is about an hour and half north.

I plan to visit the Everglades south of the Big O and fish the backwaters and canals. That area can be very good for largemouth, but you stand a chance of catching a peacock bass there too. The peacocks don't get as large there as they do in South America, but they are still fun to catch on bass tackle.



Ronald Whitehouse bagged a buck still in velvet in gun season.

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ng and fishing license. The five resident adult winners can choose one lifetime hunting license or a two-night state forest cabin stay. The four non-resident youth winners will all receive a Cabela's prize package. The five non-resident adult winners can choose a two-night state forest cabin stay or two Pipestem Peaks Zipline tour passes.

Resident Youth Division Winners  
Cameron Ford – Bloomery, W.Va.  
Gracie Harper – Friendly, W.Va.  
Shyann Hurst – Peterstown, W.Va.  
Elliana Meadows – Hinton, W.Va.  
Morgan Wicker – Belleville, W.Va.  
Resident Adult Division Winners  
Raymond Adkins – Forest Hill, W.Va.  
Zack Gill – Ballard, W.Va.



Cameron Ford, from Bloomery, was a youth DNR pic winner.

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Monty (Jake) Boytek – Chapmanville, W.Va.

Leah O'Neil – Moundsville, W.Va.

Monica Smith – Buckhannon, W.Va.

Non-Resident Youth Division Winners

Brantley Bernhard – Port St. Lucie, Florida

Brock Davis – Star Tannery, Virginia

Gracie Ryder – Rockingham, Virginia

James Vernatter – Concord, North Carolina



Elliana Meadows, from Hinton, is also a youth DNR pic winner.

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# DNR Trout Stocking

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA.  
 — The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WVDNR) announced on Monday that the following waters were stocked during the week of January 29:

Anthony Creek  
 Big Clear Creek  
 Boley Lake  
 Buffalo Creek (Brooke)  
 Buffalo Creek (Clay)  
 Burnsville Tailwaters  
 Cacapon Park Lakes  
 Castlemans Run Lake  
 Clear Fork of Guyandotte River  
 Cranberry River  
 Dillons Run  
 Dog Run Lake (upper and lower sections)  
 East River  
 Edwards Run Pond  
 Fort Ashby Reservoir  
 Glade Creek of Mann

Glady Fork  
 Greenbrier River (Cass)  
 Greenbrier River (Marlinton)  
 Howards Creek  
 Indian Rocks Lake  
 Knapps Creek  
 Larenim Park Lake  
 Little Clear Creek  
 Lost River  
 Marsh Fork  
 Mash Fork  
 Meadow Creek (Summers)  
 Middle Wheeling Lake  
 Mill Creek (Hampshire)  
 Mill Creek Reservoir  
 New Creek Dam No. 14  
 North Fork South Branch  
 North River  
 Opequon Creek  
 Paint Creek  
 Paw Paw Creek  
 Pond Fork  
 Poorhouse Pond  
 R.D. Bailey Tailwaters  
 Rocky Marsh Run  
 Seneca Lake  
 Shavers Fork (Bemis)  
 Shavers Fork (lower section)  
 Shavers Fork (upper section)  
 South Branch (Franklin)  
 South Branch (Smoke Hole)  
 Spruce Knob Lake  
 Stonewall Jackson Tailwaters  
 Summit Lake

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Sutton Tailwaters  
 Teter Creek Lake  
 Tilhance Creek  
 Trout Run  
 Tuckahoe Lake  
 Tuscarora Creek  
 Upper Guyandotte River  
 Waites Run  
 Watoga Lake  
 Wheeling Creek  
 Whiteday Creek

While daily trout stockings are not announced in advance, the WVDNR publishes a list of recently stocked waters at [WVdnr.gov/fish-stocking](http://WVdnr.gov/fish-stocking). Anglers may also find out what waters have been stocked by calling the stocking hotline at 304-558-3399. In inclement weather, missed stockings are made up by either additional stocking runs or additional fish added to upcoming stocking events. For more information about trout stocking locations, anglers should check pages 14-15 in the 2024 Fishing Regulations Summary, available to download at [WVdnr.gov/fishing-regulations](http://WVdnr.gov/fishing-regulations).

All anglers 15 years and older are required to have a West Virginia fishing license, trout stamp and a valid form of identification while fishing for trout. Licenses and stamps can be purchased at more than 150 retail locations across the state or online at [WVfish.com](http://WVfish.com).

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Dante Curtis, from Davisville, landed a Feb. freshwater drum.





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## 22nd Annual West Virginia Fishing, Hunting Outdoor Show

The 22nd Annual West Virginia Fishing, Hunting, and Outdoor Sports Show will be held at the Ruby Community Center at Mylan Park in Morgantown, WV March 2-3, 2024. We are the fastest growing Outdoor Show in the area with more than 200 Ven-

dor Booths in more than 100,000 square feet. Vendors representing our varied Hunting, Fishing, and Outdoor Culture wait to meet the thousands of attendees that flow through our doors. Vendors from all over the country (and even from South Africa) have a wide range

of products and services to offer. From fishing, hunting, whitewater rafting, camping (tents and RV's), side by sides and four-wheelers,

continue to the next page



Jerry Whitman archery hunted in Logan County for his 10 point



Seth Thomas used his bow for a 158 Pope & Young score buck.

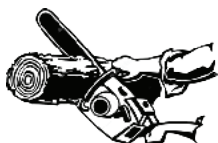


Andy Godwin, from Burnsville, hooked 2 big crappie recently.

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tractors and much, much more! Attendees will get to meet and listen to Josh White, former NA-SCAR driver and USMC Veteran turned Outdoor Adventure Host, Josh White and get a great line up of seminars on hunting, fishing, and even a wild game cooking demonstration. We are giving our attendees the opportunity to win a trip to Maine to go on a bear hunt with Back Bone Mountain Guide

Service. Our younger generation will get to see Smokey the Bear, real hawks and falcons, light saber battles, and new this year—A Reptile Room filled with a variety

of Reptiles that can be looked at and touched! Come out to see what everyone has been talking about for years. We can't wait to see you too!



Many people enjoyed last years WV Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Show. Join the fun this year!



Jeff Martin got a nice 10 point in Nicholas Co. Photo courtesy of WV Wild Outdoors in Birch River.

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Nick Battista reeled in a huge cold weather walleye.



Darci Hogue got her 1st buck with a compound bow.

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Morgan Wicker, from Belleville, was a DNR youth pic winner.



Austin Cooper got a great Mason County whitetail buck.



Justin Bunner hunted in Calhoun County for a monster 16 point.

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Dan Marcum arrowed a Mingo  
County 8 point whitetail buck.

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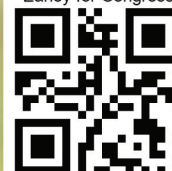
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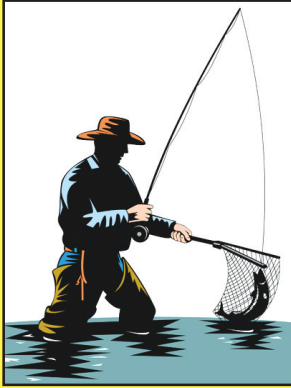


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