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Issue 258

December 2016/January 2017

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**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

**Rabbit  
TIPS**

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

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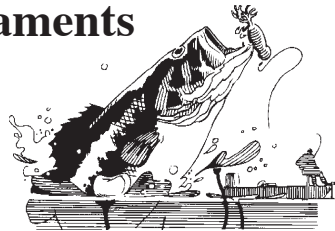
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## Cover Photo

A very unusual 7x7 rack (14 point) buck was taken by Kenny Utt, from Pennsboro. He was hunting during buck season in Ritchie County. I can't recall ever seeing a true 7x7 pic.

Send in your 2016/17 game and fish TEXT pics. Send to 304-482-7217. Bucks only - no does.

There have been numerous text pics sent in this year. If you are not in the last couple of issues, look in future issues for your pic.

# Deer Information Facts

## Top Facts about Deer

How much do you know about deer? If the answer is not very much then don't worry. As you explore these fun and informative deer facts you will soon have plenty of information about them.

Deer are ruminant mammals belonging to the family Cervidae.

All male deer have antlers, with the exception of the Chinese Water Deer, which have tusks.

This family classification include well known animal like the Moose, Red Deer, Reindeer, Roe and Chital among others.

Male deer are called bucks, females, are does, and the young are fawns. Only the males grow ant-

lers, except the reindeer.

The term is deer whether you are talking about one of them or more. Many people say "deers" as the plural but that is incorrect.

Deer are found to live in every region around the world except for Australia and Antarctica. While it is understandable why deer wouldn't survive in Antarctica it isn't fully understood why they can't survive in Australia.

Only one species of deer lives in Africa – the Red Deer.

Reindeer are the only species of deer where the females have antlers as well as the males.

Deer are the only animals in the world that feature antlers. Moose have the largest antlers of all the species. They are covered with velvet.

Deer were first identified by the Europeans and then taken by them into the area we know today as New Zealand.

Approximately 1.5 million vehicles are involved in accidents annually from hitting deer. The cost of these accidents is about \$1 million per year. They also result in about 150 deaths per year.

There are more than 60 deer species that have been identified. All deer are classified as Artiodactyls because they have hooves and

continue to the next page



Arthur D'Angelo got a 9 point in Barbour County.

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an even number of toes.

Deer have a homeland range and it can span about 30 miles. They will move around the area finding different places to sleep and food to eat.

Deer have lots of muscles in their



Taylor Jones got a 10 point with a bow in Ohio. Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.

ears. This allows them to turn the ears different directions but they don't have to move their bodies as they do so.

In the fall deer will shed their summer coat. A thicker and fuller one will appear to keep them very warm in the winter time.

The young fawns have spots on them that disappear when they are

about four months of age.

Due to their eyes being at the side of the head, they have a 310 degree view.

The average speed for a deer is 35 miles per hour for a short distance. Deer weights generally range from 40 to 680 kilograms.

Most people don't know that  
 continue to the next psge



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deer are amazing when it comes to swimming.

Dead male deer have been found with their antlers interlocked with each other, stuck in a tree where they were rubbing, and even in barbed wire fences. Sadly, these males will die from starvation because they can't break free.

Deer fawns don't have a smell to them which is why they are able to remain undetected by predators as long as they are out of sight.

All deer are herbivores which means they only consume plant life.

All species of deer have a four chamber stomach so they can chew cud. This process involves partially chewing food, regurgitating it, and then chewing it more before it is able to be digested into the body.

Deer are less active in the winter months than in the summer time.

This is a process that allows them to preserve energy. Since there is less food available they will only move when they need to.

The fawns are born with four teeth and by the time they are 1 1/2 years of age they will have all of them that they need to function as an adult. Experts can determine the age of the young by the formation of their teeth.

The average life span for deer in the wild is 15- 20 years. However, it can vary based upon location and the species.



Brad White used his bow in Ohio for a quality buck.

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# 2016 Fall Turkey Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Preliminary numbers show fall turkey hunters checked in 2,066 turkeys this fall, according to Chris Ryan, supervisor of Game Management Services for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR). This was the first time in recent history that all 55 counties were open to a fall season.

The fall turkey harvest was up 82 percent from 2015. The top 10 counties were Nicholas (140), Randolph (116), Preston (105), Upshur (92), Webster (91), Wood (84), Greenbrier (74), Mason (64), Wyoming (62) and Monroe (61). The 14 “traditional” fall hunting counties accounted for 37 percent of the total fall turkey harvest.

All six DNR districts had higher

harvests compared to 2015. District 3 led the state with a harvest of 564 birds, followed by District  
continue to the next page



Ben Lane is happy with his buck.  
Photo courtesy of PC Bait in Hinton.

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1 (412), District 4 (368), District 6 (275), District 5 (238) and District 2 (209).

“Hunter participation, recruitment of turkeys into the population, and availability of hard mast account for most of the variability in fall turkey harvests,” Ryan said. “Al-



Randy Irvine used a bow for a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.

though acorns were more plentiful in 2016, increased reproduction and having more counties open to fall hunting led to a better harvest, as was predicted in the 2016 Mast Survey and Hunting Outlook.”

The 17-year cicada, which emerged in 2016 across much of the state, increased poult survival in areas of cicada abundance. This high-protein food source helped in turkey reproduction which was noted by an increased number of broods observed throughout much of the State in 2016, according to Ryan.

“In addition, hunters enjoyed the

new season format that enabled them to chase this magnificent bird throughout the entire state.”



Hunter Watson got an 8 point buck in Wirt County.



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Young Nick Milhoan got a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.



Vicki Hensley used a bow for a 6 point buck. Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.



Patricia Thomas shot a fine buck. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.

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Jim Dunlap brought in a great buck.  
Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.



Kim Collett shot an impressive 14 pointer in Randolph Co..



Eli Miller got his 1st buck in Tyler County.



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Brian Gibbs used a bow in Jackson Co. for an 8 point buck.




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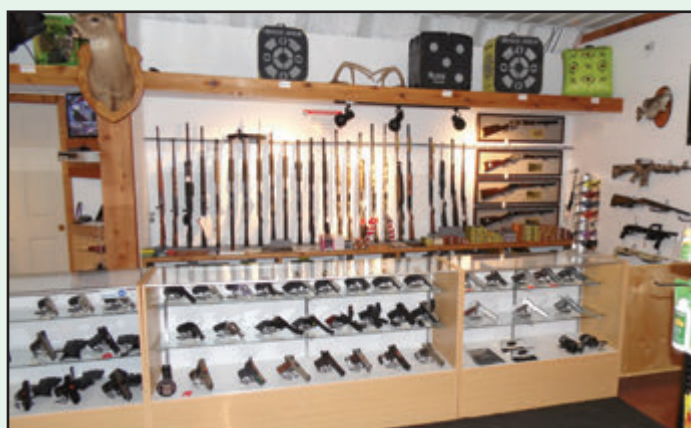
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## 2016 WV Buck Harvest Less This Season

**SOUTH CHARLESTON,**  
W.Va. – Preliminary data collected from the electronic game checking system indicate deer

hunters in West Virginia harvested 45,871 bucks during the two-week buck firearms season which ran from Nov. 21 through Dec. 3, 2016, according to Paul Johansen, chief of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife Resources Section.

Outlook brochure, primarily because of an increased number of acorns in 2016 compared to acorn  
continue to the next page



Braden Rine harvested a buck.  
*Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.*

The 2016 buck harvest is down 25 percent from the 2015 harvest of 60,814. The top 10 counties for buck harvest were: Preston (1,769), Randolph (1,610), Jackson (1,482), Greenbrier (1,445), Ritchie (1,414), Upshur (1,392), Mason (1,266), Lewis (1,238), Hampshire (1,183) and Wood (1,182).

The buck harvest decreased in all six DNR districts. The buck season harvest was predicted to decrease in the Mast Survey and Hunting



Isiah Yeater used a bow for a large Wirt Co. buck.  
*Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown..*

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crop production in 2015. In addition, high winds across much of the state limited deer activity and decreased success rates on the first two days of the season.

“Hunters continued to use the electronic game checking system established in 2015,” Johansen said. “Hunters enjoyed 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 2016, including the remainder of the muzzle-loader season, which runs through Saturday, Dec. 10. The traditional antlerless deer season in selected counties on both public and private land opens Thursday, Dec. 15, and runs through Saturday, Dec. 17. The Youth, Class Q/QQ and Class XS deer season for antlerless deer will be open Dec. 26 and 27 in any

county with a firearms deer season. This will be followed by the re-opening of Class N/NN antlerless deer season Dec. 28-31 in specified counties or portions of counties. See the 2016 - 2017 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary or visit the DNR website at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov) for county and area listings.

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Nina Mae Coberly used a crossbow in Gilmer County for an 8 point.

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## 2016 Deer Hunting Overview Facts

The West Virginia buck firearms season is Nov. 21 – Dec. 3, 2016. It is open in all counties except Logan, Mingo, McDowell and Wyo-

ming.

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

Hunters should review the 2016 - 2017 Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for detailed instructions concerning bag limits and season dates. The regulations are available at license agents, DNR district offices and online at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).

All hunters must have an official

DNR ID number in order to check game. The ID number can be found on the annual hunting license when purchased, or can be obtained by calling 304-558-2758 or logging on to [wvhunt.com](http://wvhunt.com) and providing the requested information. Game may be checked by telephone at 1-844-wvcheck, online at [wvhunt.com](http://wvhunt.com) or at any hunting license agent. All field tagging, transporting and possession requirements still apply.

continue to the next page



Chase Bauer shot a large 10 point in Clay County.



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Hunters may substitute a bow or a crossbow during the buck 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.

Unused Class RG and Class RRG stamps may not be used in antlerless or muzzleloader seasons.

Fifty-one counties are open to concurrent antlerless deer season hunting during the traditional buck firearms season. Class N (resident) or Class NN (non-resident) stamps to hunt during the antlerless deer season can be purchased at any time. Antlerless deer firearms season opens Nov. 21 on private land and specified public lands. Hunters should consult the 2016-2017

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Hunting and Trapping Regulations Summary for specific antlerless deer season regulations in each county and wildlife management area.

A hunter may harvest two deer 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.

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 areas 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 2015, the traditional bucks-only firearm season harvest of antlered bucks was 60,814, an increase of 62 percent from the 2014 harvest. This is 20 percent more  
continue to the next page

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than the five-year average bucks-only harvest of 50,795 and ranks 24th among all past years.

WVDNR predicts the buck harvest should be lower in 2016 than in 2015. There should be a strong yearling age class born in spring 2015 following the bumper oak crop of 2014. However, the percentage of yearlings in the harvest has remained low due to hunters choosing to wait for larger, older bucks. Oak mast will have deer spread out over the landscape and less visible in fields and harder to harvest.

The posting of private lands has expanded to include the use of purple paint as a method of posting private land requiring written permission to hunt.

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 online to [www.wvhunt.com](http://www.wvhunt.com), fill out the application, and purchase it over a secure 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 Facing Hunger Food Bank, should call 304-924-6211 or visit the DNR website at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov) to find a participating meat processor. This is an excellent program.

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Hanna Yoho used a bow in Ohio.  
*Photo courtesy of Boone's Bow Shop in Parkersburg.*



James Bare used a bow to get this nice 9 point buck.

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Cooper Ward enjoyed his turkey hunt.



Dave Post reeled in a large wall-eye.



Heather Miller, from Hinton, reeled in a largemouth bass.



Joshua Kaplan brought in a fine gobbler.



Dorothy Garrick hooked a big channel catfish.



Sammy Murphy used a crossbow for this 8 point buck.



Roy Woods shot a fall gobbler. Photo courtesy of Trapper's Den in Cowen..



Shawn Stidham bagged a 22 pound gobbler in Putnam County.



Jordan Burdette harvested a quality buck.



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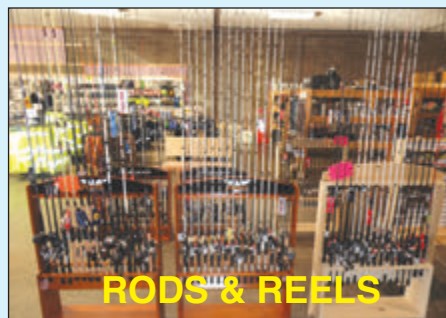
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Frank Reno got a large Ohio buck using Peanut Attraction. Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton..



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Brandon Vinson used a bow in Wyoming County for this large buck.



David Booher shot a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Tyler Outdoor Supply in Middlebourne.



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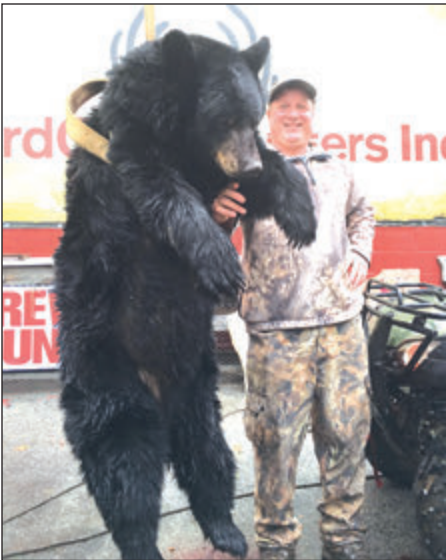
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Dave Ware bagged a big black bear. Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton.



Ryan Hagan hunted in Doddridge County for this wide raked buck.



Kevin Friend bagged a nice 10 point buck in Braxton County.



Danny Burnette used a bow in Mercer Co. for a huge 9 point.

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# Crayfish Overview Facts

Every time you turn around you hear something about matching the hatch. One easy and simple way to do that is to get good at matching something that lives almost everywhere — rock, sand, gravel, mud, weeds and wood. I'm talking about crayfish.

Supposedly there are over 300 varieties around. That sounds like a lot to me but no matter how many types there are I guarantee you that somewhere a bass has eaten at least one from every variety. They are universal black bass food, and because of that you should know how to select something that looks like them and know how to fish it so that it looks natural.

Picking something that looks like a local isn't all that tough if you keep your priorities in mind. I start by thinking about size and profile.

Back when I was a kid I walked along the banks of Lake Martin. Whenever I turned over a rock there would be a crayfish under it, but they were all small. As I got older I fished Lake Martin a lot. I always caught a few bass on small

crayfish looking lures, mostly small jigs with small chunks.

I tried bigger baits for a while thinking they'd get me bigger bass. They didn't. All the bass saw were small crayfish. That's what they'd eat. Big ones looked strange and out of place to them. They didn't eat them, at least not the ones I was fishing.

Walking the shores of Lake Martin worked well when I was a kid. But that was then. Now that I'm fishing the Elite Series I don't have time to do that. About all I have time to do is watch what's going on in the shallows or other places where I can see the bottom. That works, sometimes.

A better way when you're under the time constraints of a major tournament, at least in most cases, is to check your livewell after you've caught a bass or two. They tend to spit up whatever they've been eating. You'd be surprised at how often it's crayfish when you'd have sworn they were eating minnows of some type. This will work just as well if you're just out having fun for the day.

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Aaron Lynch got an 8 point in Wirt County.

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Woodward Trail Jr. caught a 6 1/2 pound carp.

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After years of working with many of them I've come to the conclusion that the easiest, cheapest and best way to do it is with an old-fashioned jig and chunk combination. A crayfish colored crankbait would

be a close second. When you feel the bass are on a crayfish bite, a jig and chunk along with a crankbait is a tough one-two punch.

Notwithstanding the crankbait bite, the chunk on your jig is the thing. Most of them are made with plastic these days. That's a good thing because it gives you almost limitless options. In general terms the smaller the trailer the smaller the profile, the quicker it'll fall and the tighter the action. The bigger the trailer the bigger the profile, the slower the fall and the more water it'll displace.

I customize my colors with J.J.'s Magic. I like orange, red and sometimes chartreuse. You can make a great, custom orange by mixing chartreuse and red. Test it on a white bait if you're uncertain about what you're going to get.

Crayfish are everywhere. Because of that you can depend on a crayfish imitating bait to put a few in your livewell if you take the time to match the locals. Do that by thinking about size, then action and finally color.



Kelsi McFarland got a 10 in Wood



Don Salisbury brought in a nice buck. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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## Late Season Bucks

Archery season concludes December 31st in West Virginia. These tips may help you still get your buck if the year.

I'm not going to lie: I'm not crazy about hunting deer during the late season. The weather is colder, the rut is over, and fewer deer are on the move. Hunter pressure has been brutal. As a result, two hours on a stand can feel like an entire day. Hunters who have been going at it hard are as worn-out as the bucks they're hunting. But for those who remain focused, this is a great time of the season to topple truly big deer.

"The post-estrous period can actually be better than the seeking phase of the rut. You won't see as many deer, but you will see some monsters," says big buck slayer and outdoor TV legend Mark Drury. "You might sit for days without seeing many deer and then the biggest deer you've ever seen will walk right in."

The name of the game at this time of year is to find the food. Bucks are worn slap out after chasing



A long tined buck was brought in. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

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every hot doe whose path they cross, and with brutal cold descending upon major swaths of the whitetail's range, food is essential to restore energy and survive the winter. If you're a member of the unfortunate crowd still looking to

fill a buck tag with a real season-making bruiser, your first job is to find the food—your second is to  
continue to the next page



Joe Patterson hunted in Meigs Co. for a big buck. Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.



Korey Gainer, from Lost Creek, got his 1st bow black bear.

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find the food—your second is to find the buck visiting it.

## Food Is Your Focus

Like a buck, you need to identify what in your hunt area is going to provide the most nutritious food for the local herd—possibly a challenge this winter after the brutal drought experienced throughout many areas this past summer. The first choice will be agricultural fields—preferably ones that were planted with corn, soybeans, alfalfa, or the like. Most will be cut by now, but deer will hit them looking for remnants scattered on the ground. In some areas where corn has been left standing for wildlife, pay particular attention, as standing corn not only provides food but also cover, so deer can feed and bed in one spot, something a wary buck will prefer given the likely hunting pressure he has already experienced.

“When it is cold, we hunt over grains,” says Drury. “When it is

warm, we go to the greens.” The latter meaning planted food plots or perhaps fields where soybeans are still uncut as deer don’t require the



Nathan Eddy used a crossbow in Upshur County for a 7 point.

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excessive protein found in grains if it is not as cold. The good thing about greens, too, is it digests more quickly in a deer, so they get on continue to the next page



Ron Phillips got into a bunch of grouse with his dog..

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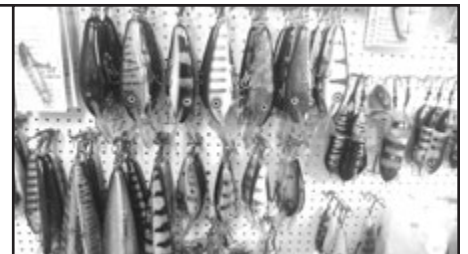
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their feet more often to feed. If you have food plots planted in leafy, frost-sweetening brassicas, such as turnips or kale, you have the second most likely spot whitetails will head to feed. Leave one or two of these hot spots alone. Let deer get comfortable going and coming into them for a week or two if you can spare the time, and then hit them only when the time is right. (More on that in a minute.)

Lastly, alternate food sources now will be old oak stands where acorns fell earlier in the season. Like in the crop fields, deer will return, digging among the leaves for remnants.

Hawthorn, soft mast (such as dogwoods), and wild berries will all be a draw as will old apples, pears, and persimmons. Beechnuts will also attract deer when other high-protein mast is scarce. Find these spots and watch them. Now you have to figure out which ones are receiving antlered visitors at a time you can hunt them.

#### Scout First

Ohio hunter and Intrepid Outdoors co-host Adam Hays is an elite big buck hunter. "I really prefer early season to any other time of the year, because a buck's feeding pattern makes him more predictable and hunter pressure isn't a huge factor yet," says Hays. "After that, the post-rut is good because they are returning to feeding patterns. Even though they have been

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pressured, if you can locate a good buck and pattern him, you can kill him." For that reason, even as the season rages on, Hays takes time to scout from a distance in order to get as much intel on when and how and in what conditions a buck visits a food source before actually hunting the buck. For that reason, he focuses most of his late season efforts on deer hitting larger food plots and fields, since he can set up at a distance and observe, for days if necessary, before actually hunting the buck. It's a tip he learned after reading an article about deer hunting great Myles Keller.

Get the bow out - it's not too late



Danny Frazier caught a 5 3/4 and a 4 1/4 pound smallmouth bass *Photo courtesy of PC Bait & Tackle in Hinton..*

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Kevin Currence shot a big 8 point buck . Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.



Gale Farnsworth got a 156 1/2 P&Y bow buck . Photo courtesy of Crooked Creek Archery in Williamstown.

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Long time hunter and fisherman, Sarge Travis, took his biggest buck. This awesome 12 point was harvested near his home in Bridgeport..

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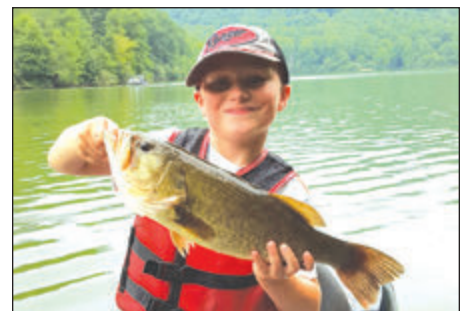
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Jerry & Harold Williams got a 356 pound field dressed black bear. Photo courtesy of Trapper's Den in Cowen.



Brian Enochs used a bow for a fine Wood County buck.



Ryan Fitzgerald caught a big bass.

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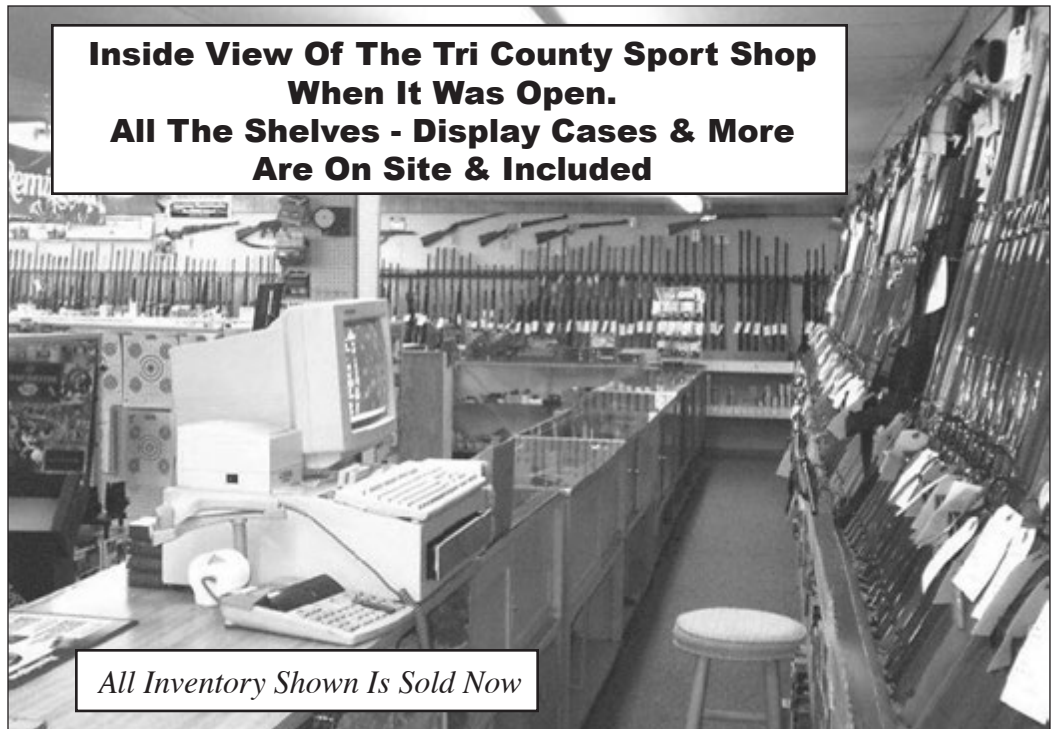
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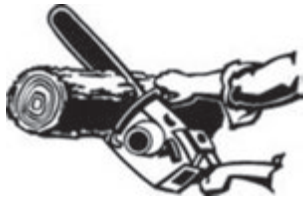


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## Winter Rabbit Hunting

Rabbits 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 positive 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 react 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!

continue to the next page



Nick Gikas, from St. Albans, caught an 18" golden trout.

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Steve Gaston, from Parkersburg, caught a farm pond largemouth.

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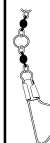
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Some of the more serious rabbit hunters use dogs. Beagles are real good for this as they're small, short haired, and will get down in the brush easily, chasing rabbits back in a circle right to you. Just follow the beagles. Having said that, it's more 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 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



Charles Minor shot a quality buck.

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want "warmth," and after the rabbit is dead, most of the fleas will "jump ship" as soon as the body cools!



Matt Burdette shot an 8 point in Jackson County. *Photo courtesy of Old & New Sports in Ravenswood.*

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Shane Rohr brought in an 8 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins..*



Victoria Utt harvested an 8 point buck. *Photo courtesy of WV Wild Outdoors in Birch River*



A big rainbow trout was reeled in.



This young fellow shot a 6 pointer.

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6 year old Dyllen Williams got a 4 point buck. *Photo courtesy of WV Wild Outdoors in Birch River*



Jennifer Lough bagged an 8 point buck. *Photo courtesy of Trapper's Den in Cowen.*



Nick Gikas, from St. Albans, hooked a 32" walleye that weighed 10 pounds, 10 ounces.

## Surplus Trout

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Division of Natural Resources will stock trout in selected streams and lakes during the month of December, according to Paul Johansen, chief of the DNR Wildlife Resources Section.

“We have surplus trout and stocking them in December will reduce crowding at our hatchery facilities,” Johansen said. “This will result in bigger and healthier fish for the regularly scheduled 2017 stocking season.”

DNR personnel will start stocking the week of Dec. 5-9, 2016. The December stocking will be composed of rainbow trout slightly smaller than anglers commonly catch during the regular stocking season.

Recent rains have resulted in excellent stream flows throughout the state and the stocking will provide early winter fishing opportunities before the January and February stockings.

Anglers can call the Fishing Hotline at 304-558-3399 or visit the DNR’s website at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov) to find out which streams and lakes have been stocked each day.



Shannon Markle bagged a fine buck in Webster County.



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## Large Fish & Game Pictures Wanted

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Fish \_\_\_\_\_ Pound \_\_\_\_\_ Oz \_\_\_\_\_

Animal \_\_\_\_\_ Gun \_\_\_\_\_ Bow \_\_\_\_\_ Pts. \_\_\_\_\_



**NO DOES** We are looking for large fish  
& game pics from 2016

**TEXT  
PIC**  
304-482-7217

Send Photo To:  
WVS  
P.O. Box 5521  
Vienna, WV  
26105

Photos Will Be Returned

E-mail wvasport@gmail.com

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