



FREE

"The where to and how to magazine for the outdoor enthusiast."

Issue 290

February/March 2021



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Depth
FINDER**

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

**DNR
Updates**

Outdoor Photos

HP ARCHERY

HENDERSHOTPERFORMANCE.COM

339 State Route 339 Belpre, OH 45714

Stop in and check out everything we have to offer!

740.315.0090

f @HPArchery339



3D Money Shoots

Saturdays

10 Noon 2



See FB for details



Indoor Range Open



Mathews--In Stock

V3 27

V3 31

Atlas

Prima

VXR



PSE—In Stock

Embark

Xpediate NXT

Drive NXT

WarHammer



Selected Bows on Sale



Advertise in the W.Va. Sportsman

ALSO ON THE
INTERNET

Promote Your Business Statewide
Advertise Special Sales and Events
Reach Thousands of Potential Customers

**In Business
30 YEARS**

LOW ADVERTISING RATES

		6 WEEK RATES		
1/15 Page.....	\$28	1/4 Page.....	\$82	
1/10 Page.....	\$39	1/3 Page.....	\$100	
1/6 Page.....	\$65	1/2 Page.....	\$135	
1/5 Page.....	\$72	2/3 Page.....	\$150	
COLOR EXTRA		FULL PAGE INSIDE....	\$195	
		BACK PAGE.....	\$240	

RATES START AT:

\$28 for **6** weeks
For This Size Ad

Less Than A 62 Cents
A Day!

For Advertising Information In
The **Number One** Outdoor
Publication In West Virginia
CONTACT:

W. Va. Sportsman
P.O. Box 5521
Vienna, WV 26105
304-482-7217
wvasport@gmail.com

100% OWNED & OPERATED IN WV



Magazine

Volume 1 Issue 290

Publisher and Editor
Mark A. Goudy

Contributing Editors
West Virginia Division Of
Natural Resources

No Subscriptions Offered

Printed Every Six Weeks.

W.Va. Sportsman

P.O. Box 5521
Vienna, WV 26105

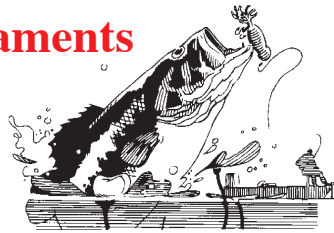
304-482-7217

Email wvasport@gmail.com
www.wvasportsman.net
All Rights Reserved

Attention Bass Fishermen!

**Get Your Name On Our
Mail-List For Bass Tournaments
In 2021**

*Fill Out The Form Below
To Be Placed On The Mail List*



Clip & Mail To:

Bass Sportsman
P.O. Box 5521
Vienna, WV
26105

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____

Zip _____ email _____

email:
wvasport@gmail.com

Cover Photo

Jody Dalton, from Princeton, used a bow in Wyoming County for a new state record typical buck. His 6x6 12 point scored 195 0/8. After the required 90 days, his buck had only lost 3 6/8 inches. His final score was 191 2/8 eclipsing the Chad Cyphers McDowell County 12 point buck taken in 2014.

Get your vaccine against Covid 19. Governor Justice has done an outstanding job for our state!

Record Black Bear Harvest

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — West Virginia hunters harvested a record 3,541 black bears during the 2020 archery and firearms seasons, according to preliminary numbers gathered by the state Division of Natural Resources.

The 2020 harvest is more than the previous record of 3,201 black bears taken during the 2015 seasons and a 14 percent increase over the 3,099 bears taken in 2019. West Virginia hunters have taken more than 3,000 black bears in five out of the last six years.

Hunters killed 1,095 bears during the first segment of the 2020 archery/crossbow season (Sept. 26 to Nov. 22). Hunters harvested 569 bears with vertical bows and 526 bears with crossbows. The top five counties were Fayette (76), Nicholas (59), Raleigh (55), Preston (55)

and Boone (53).

"We saw increased harvest numbers during the September/October and bow/crossbow seasons and then numbers decreased slightly during the buck-gun and December seasons," said Colin Carpenter, black bear project leader for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

Firearms hunters harvested 2,442 bears in 2020. Hunters took 1,225 bears in September and October (including 38 bears during the concurrent antlerless deer/bear season and 19 during the youth, class Q/ QQ, XS season), 470 during the concurrent buck-gun bear season and 747 bears during the tradition-

continue to the next page



Dalton McCune, from Fayetteville, went to Gilmer Co. for a buck.



Mike Bentley brought in a nice Jackson County buck.

BOWTECH
DIAMOND



BOW-LISTIC
ARCHERY SHOP

COMPLETE BOW SERVICE
BOW & HUNTING ACCESSORIES
YOUTH BOWS • CUSTOM ARROWS

15105 MacCorkle Av. SE
CHELYAN, WV

CROSSBOWS

- EXCALIBUR
- 10 POINT
- KILLER INSTINCT

304-595-2699

Mon - Fri
12:30 to 5
SAT 10AM TO 2PM

www.bow-licisticarchery.com

BOOKING WILD
BOAR HUNTS

f



Wes Kimlin used a bow for a nice Nicholas County black bear.

COOPER'S
CAMPGROUND

Harman, WV
Complete Hookups
It's Our 42nd Year!

304-227-4219

GOT GUNS?

TJ's
SWAP SHOP

Celebrating 38 Years In Business
~ Many Collectable Firearms



304-927-2010

HUGE Selection
Of Firearms In Stock
~ over 1,000 New & Used ~ We Pawn
• Rifles • Shotguns • Pistols
• BUY • SELL • TRADE
We Loan CASH On Items Of Value
Open Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm
212 Court St.
SPENCER, WV



Adkins Family Jayco RV Center

I-77 N • EXIT 138 • RT 62 S • 304-372-1323

Visit Online For More Details • www.adkinsfamilyrv.com

al December season. Four bears were harvested during the third Mountaineer Heritage Season (two by bow, two by muzzleloader). The top five counties were Nicholas (190), Randolph (185), Webster (168), Pocahontas (152) and Greenbrier (148).

Decreased Mast Production Affected 2020 Black Bear Harvest
Carpenter said hard and soft mast production in 2020 was down 39 percent compared to 2019 and 35 percent below the long-term average, which affects harvest numbers over the course of the black bear hunting seasons.

"Scarce mast yields an increased bow/crossbow harvest and a decreased December firearms har-

vest," he said. "So, providing ample early season hunting opportunities before bears have entered the den helps to decrease large fluctuations in the total bear harvest."

While mast production was down in 2020, Carpenter said a few species produced more than the long-term average. Red oak and black oak was up 27 percent and scarlet oak was up 56 percent. Unfortunately, mast production by red/black oak and scarlet oak could not offset the declines in the other

species surveyed. Beech was down 51 percent, hickory decreased 54 percent, white oak dropped 12 percent and chestnut oak was down 17 percent.

The 2020 Mast Survey and Hunting Outlook predicted that 2020 would have a similar bow/crossbow harvest compared to 2019 and an increased firearms harvest over the levels observed in 2019. However, the bow/crossbow, firearms and the overall harvest were much higher than 2019.



Alex Goff, from Clendean, caught a huge late season smallmouth.



Young Ayden Trunk bagged a quality buck this season.



Jimmie Brown fished at Bluestone Lake for a fine smallmouth bass

Broken Wheel Campground

and Country Store

**I-79 Exit 96
Weston, WV**

Fishing & Hunting
Supplies

Gifts - Game Room - Playground

Nightly & Monthly Rates
Boat & Camper Storage

LIVE BAIT

Past The Stonewall Jackson Dam Entrance

1 1/2 Miles On The Right

304-269-6097



French Creek Freddy

FRENCH CREEK, W.VA. — French Creek Freddie, West Virginia's famous weather-prognosticating groundhog, has predicted an early spring for the Mountain State.

Freddie made his prediction Tuesday morning during a private ceremony in his home at the WV State Wildlife Center. This year's Groundhog Day Celebration was cancelled due to COVID-19.

"Freddie wishes he could have celebrated his special day with all his friends this year, but he's in high spirits and hopes an early spring will encourage folks to visit him at the Wildlife Center soon," said Trevor Moore, WVDNR wildlife biologist.

According to tradition, an early spring can be expected if Freddie doesn't see his shadow, which is a result of an overcast sky on Groundhog Day. After more than 40 years of making Groundhog Day predictions, Freddie is correct about 50 percent of the time. This is the second year in a row he has called for an early spring.

"Freddie might be predicting an early spring, but don't put your coats and mittens away just yet because there's still plenty of time to get out and enjoy beautiful winter scenery here in West Virginia,"



Gavin Roberts, from Pineville, put an arrow in a large buck.

Fam ily Owned & Operated Since 1965

**Motorcycles • UTV • ATV
Service & Sales**









**US 33 East
BUCKHANNON, WV**

304-472-4824

www.supersmittys.com







said Zack Brown, WVDNR assistant chief of operations.

The West Virginia Wildlife Center is home to French Creek Freddie and nearly 30 different native and introduced animal species. The 338-acre facility remains open to visitors with extra precautions for preventing the spread of COVID-19. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., seven days a week through the end of March. Admis-



Kari Richards went to Pleasants County for a large racked buck.

sion is free during this period. For more information, visit wvdnr.gov/wildlife/wildlifecenter.shtm.

2021 Bass Sportsman Tournaments



ENTER AT THE RAMP

**\$100 + \$10 Big Bass
6 FISH LIMIT**

APRIL 25

STONEWALL - VANDALIA RAMP

MAY 16

BURNSVILLE LAKE

MAY 23

STONEWALL - VANDALIA RAMP

JUNE 27

BURNSVILLE LAKE

SEPTEMBER 26

STONEWALL - VANDALIA RAMP

7am to 4pm All Events

Info: 304-482-7217



LET US HELP YOU DOUBLE YOUR EFFECTIVE RANGE!

The Best of the West is a pioneer in the long range hunting industry and was the first company to develop long range shooting systems and optics over a decade ago.

Attendees will spend time in a classroom setting with a comprehensive Powerpoint presentation that integrates actual hunting scenarios and video of real-world applications with corresponding principles of long range shooting.

All of that is then applied at the shooting range, where attendees will experience several BOTW systems featuring the Huskemaw Advantage.

SPECIFIC TOPICS COVERED IN THE COURSE:

- Internal and external ballistics
- Shooter/spotter team technique
- Wind reading/doping technique
- Uphill/downhill angle shooting
- Reading the animal's body language
- Shot placement based on species
- Preparation/gear for long range hunting

AMMUNITION AND SHOOTING SYSTEMS ARE PROVIDED!

EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS GIVEN ON BOTW SHOOTING SYSTEMS AND HUSKEMAW OPTICS FOR ATTENDING THE COURSE.

COST: \$399 per person/per day, group rates available

DATES: April 19th — May 2nd
(one-day courses offered each of these dates)

LOCATION: This course is hosted by BOTW Pro Dealers Trigger Time, LLC and held at the Epling Shooting Range in Reedy, West Virginia



Range located on
Rt. 14 north of Spencer
at 4178 Reedy, WV

For more info:
304-519-2510
www.triggertimellc.com

LONG RANGE SHOOTING SCHOOL

**TO REGISTER
PLEASE CONTACT:**

WADE BROWN
CELL 720-318-9705
WADE@THEBESTOFTHEWEST.NET

ETHAN EPLING
304-377-7460
TRIGGERTIMELLC@OUTLOOK.COM

L.D. EPLING
304-588-4350
FARMERSFRIENDINC2@GMAIL.COM

**FOR MORE INFO
ABOUT THE BEST OF THE WEST
& HUSKEMAW OPTICS:**

THEBESTOFTHEWEST.NET
HUSKEMAWOPTICS.COM

307-587-2787

115 W. YELLOWSTONE AVE
CODY, WYOMING



Firearm Buck Harvest For 2021


SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.V.A.
 — Hunters in West Virginia harvested 38,776 antlered deer during the two-week buck firearms season, according to preliminary data collected through the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources'

electronic game checking system.

The 2020 buck harvest was 6 percent higher than the harvest in 2019, when hunters took 36,796 bucks. The top 10 counties by harvest are Preston (1,469), Randolph (1,428), Hampshire (1,380), Greenbrier (1,317), Pendleton (1,296), Hardy (1,169), Braxton (1,089), Grant (1,088), Pocahontas (1,082), and Jackson (1,063).

"It's been a good year for deer hunting in West Virginia and these preliminary numbers for the buck season harvest are really encouraging," said Gary Foster, assistant chief of game management for the WVDNR.

Buck harvests in West Virginia's north central region, eastern panhandle and in southwestern counties saw increases of 9 percent, 17 percent and 43 percent, respectively. Excellent harvests in these regions offset declines in the state's central mountain region and western and southeastern counties, where the harvest decreased by 2 percent, 5 percent and 7 percent, respectively.



THE OUTDOOR STORE

WWW.TOSFIREARMS.COM
304-655-7600

PIPELINER Guns & More
 HUNTING & FISHING SUPPLIES
 DEER & ANIMAL FEED

856 Arnoldsburg Road
ARNOLDSBURG, WV



Ann See shot a nice whitetail buck.
 Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

FREE ONLINE
www.wvasportsman.net



Travis McCoy, from Pax, brought in a great buck this seson..



Mountaineer RV & OUTDOOR CENTER
www.mymountaineerrv.com
 YOUR ADVENTURE HEADQUARTERS



5th Wheel



Toy Hauler



Travel Trailer

**RV's Manufactured by
 Forest River & Keystone**



Kayak Sales
 FEELFREE • BIG FISH • SEASTREAM

**539 US Highway 33 East
 Weston, WV**

304.997.8533

Open M-F 8:30am to 5:30pm
 Sat 9am to 3pm Closed Sunday

VIEW OUR INVENTORY ONLINE
www.mymountaineerrv.com



Nathnie Morrison had success with a Braxton County 9 point buck.

Stop By Our Store OR Shop Online With Over 40,000 Items We Ship To You - www.doddsports.com



Crossbows

Ravin 10-Point Carbon Express Parker

**Buy
Sell
Trade**



Clothing



Reloading

**CANOE
Old Town
KAYAK**

*We Accept
Major Credit
Cards*



**RAMBO
• Electric
Bicycles**



Huge Selection Of Leupold

**Weatherby • Browning • Kimber • Cooper
Ruger • Remington • Winchester
Thompson Center • Glock • Springfield
S&W • Walther • Taurus & More**



11-6 Mon to Fri
11-5 Sat

**90 Day
Lay-Away
20% Down**



**Reloading • Scopes • Ammo
Holsters • Knives • Oakley
Large Selection Of 22 Ammo
Clothing & More**

**Just Off Rt. 50
Between Parkersburg
And Clarksburg**

103 Maple St.
**ELLENBORO, WV
304-869-3200**

Interesting Hunting Facts

1. African Hunting Dogs vote to decide whether to go on a hunt or not. The most important animals in the pack need only garner around 3 votes; the lesser dogs need about 10.
2. Grizzly bears were so feared and respected by Native Americans that hunting them required a company of 4 to 10 warriors and was done with the same preparation and ceremony as intertribal warfare.
3. In 2014, Namibia raised over \$350k by auctioning off the right to hunt one endangered black rhino. The rhino was past breeding age and detrimental to the rest of the herd. The money was used to protect endangered animals.
4. In 1859, English settler Thomas Austin released only 24 rabbits onto his property in Australia, stating "The introduction of a few rabbits could do little harm and might provide a touch of home, in addition to a spot of hunting." By the 1920's the population reached 10 billion.
5. If you don't pay child support in Texas you won't be able to renew your hunting license.
6. The near-extinction bison hunt

**ROCK
CAVE
IGA**

Intersection of
Rt. 4 & 20
Rock Cave, WV
924-5296
Groceries

Fresh Meat & Produce
Propane Exchange
Beverages & Snacks

Open Mon - Sat 8am to 8pm Sun Noon to 5PM

All Hunters & Fishermen
Check Us Out

www.rockcave.iga.com

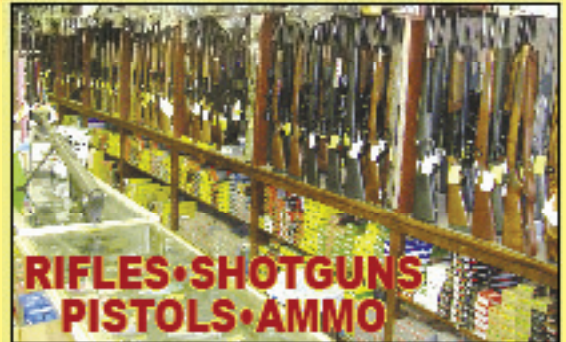
OLD & NEW SPORTS

JACKSON COUNTY'S
OLDEST SPORT STORE

**BUY • SELL
TRADE • PAWN**

We Do Gun Transfers

**HARD TO FIND
AMMUNITION
IN STOCK**



**RIFLES • SHOTGUNS
PISTOLS • AMMO**

**Bows
Arrows**

Large Selection
LIVE BAIT

Large Selection Of
Crossbows & Accessories



TRAPPING SUPPLIES

M-S 9am to 5pm Sun 12 - 5PM

Rods • Reels & Tackle For:
Bass • Musky • Crappie
Trout • Catfish & More

813 Washington St.

RAVENSWOOD, WV

304-273-5855

ing in the 1800s was not to gain food, but to restrict the American Indians' dominant food supply; herds were shot from trains and left to rot where they died.

7. Serial killer/Cannibal Nathaniel Bar-Jonah after one of his victim's disappearance started to hold cookouts in which he served burgers, chili and etc to guests. His response was that he had gone deer hunting. He did not own a rifle, a hunting license, nor had he been deer hunting at any time.

8. A couple of PETA members, after attending an anti-hunting campaign, wrecked into a deer. They followed up by suing the New Jersey Game Department claiming that their deer management program was to blame. – Source

9. When the Champawat Tigress, a Bengal tiger responsible for the deaths of over 436 people was killed, it was discovered that its canine teeth were broken. This had

prevented it from hunting its natural prey.



Grant Owens - 13 - hunted in Wood County for his 8 point.

Advertise In The

W. Va. Sportsman

- Low Rates
- 30 Years In Business
- Rates On Page 3

10. The reason cats and snakes have vertical pupils is because it increases their depth perception while hunting at night while prey animals such as sheep have horizontal pupils so that they may have a panoramic view of their surroundings to watch for predators.

11. There are a group of Native Americans in Mexico who run 200 miles in one session and hunt by running their prey to death. –

12. In 1889, a dam owned by an exclusive hunting and the fishing club gave way, causing a flood that killed 2,209 people in southern Pennsylvania. The club's members included many of the richest men in America and efforts to hold it legally responsible went nowhere.

13. The term "Sniper" originally referred to hunters skilled enough to shoot a Snipe, a species of bird.

14. The extinct Passenger Pigeon bird went from being the most abundant bird in North America and possibly the world during the 19th century, to extinct in the 20th century due to massive hunting and habitat destruction. Martha,



Mark Burns bagged a big bobcat. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

37 Years
Experience



GLADY FORK ARCHERY

Bowtech • Diamond

Bowtuning - Custom Arrows – Accessories

RECURVE By: Samick • Martin

2539 Gladly Fork Road

3.8 Miles Off I-79 Exit 96 - Turn Left

WESTON, WV 304-269-6292

Mon-Fri-Sat
10-5
Tue-Wed-Thur
3-9

CROSSBOWS

Ravin

10 Point

Centerpoint

the world's last passenger pigeon, died alone in 1914 at the Cincinnati Zoo, USA.

15. Some inmates in Greenland hold the keys of their own cells, may leave the premises during the day to go to work/school and are even allowed to go hunting with rifles to shoot birds and seals.

16. Wyoming issues Jackalope hunting licenses for its official hunting season. It is on June 31st from midnight to 2 AM, and only for hunters with an IQ no greater than 72.

continue to the next page



Paul Wilson caught & released a 42" Kanawha River musky.





CROSSROADS GENERAL STORE



FORT KNOX

GUNS

In Stock
Or Ordered
Safe
Showroom

**LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF
ROUTE 47 & NEWARK RD.
NEWARK, WV**

304-275-4619

Open At 5am-7pm M-Th
5am-8pm Fr
7am-8pm Sat
7am-5pm Sun

• Hunting Supplies • Ammo
• Camo Clothing • Muzzleloaders
• Beverages • Gasoline Musky Lures
• Food • Live Bait • Minnows & More
• Fishing Tackle • Crossbows

Ravin - Barnette



Buy * Sell * Trade * Loans

Gold • Silver • Jewelry • Guns • Electronics • Tools • Archery • And More

Two Locations To Serve You

**3410 Emerson Avenue
Parkersburg, WV 26104
(304) 428 PAWN (7296)**



NATIONAL PAWNBROKERS ASSOCIATION

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM SATURDAY 10AM - 5PM

**515 Division Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
(304) 428-7298**

www.carlspawnshop.com

17. The Nazi's were staunch animal rights activists with major efforts to limit hunting and general animal cruelty. Göring, in particular, was a professed animal lover who proclaimed bans on both vivisection (Nazi Germany was the first country in the world to do so) and the shoeing of horses. 18. Edward James Kim Corbett tracked and killed 33 well-documented man-eaters, 19 tigers, and 14 leopards, that combined to kill over 1,200 people. Despite the dangerous nature of the beasts he was hunting, Corbett traveled alone and by foot while hunting the cats.

19. The Burkitshi are nomadic hunters of Mongolia. They capture a golden eagle at the age of four and train it to become a hunting partner. The Burkitshi

live and sleep with the eagle for ten years, and then it is released back into the wilderness before death. –

20. The U.S. Post Office sells a \$25 stamp that's required for duck hunting. The proceeds go to conservation efforts.

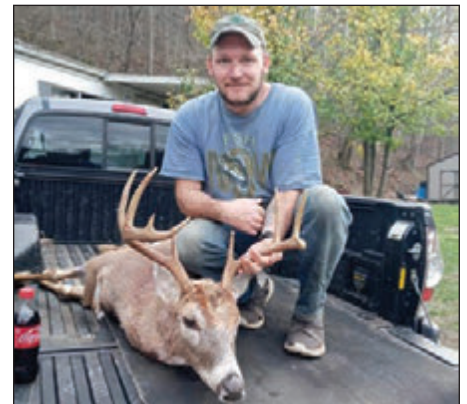
21. Ancient Egyptians used tamed and trained cheetahs for hunting; this tradition was passed on and kept alive until the 20th century by e.g. Indian royalty.

22. Scotland is so barren because most of it belongs to a few dozen wealthy people who use it as hunting grounds. Huge numbers of deer bred by them destroy all new seedlings.

23. A fox shot his hunter in Belorussia (now Belarus). The man tried to finish off the fox with the butt of his rifle, but the fox pulled the trigger with its paws, wounding the man in the process.



Lea Trigg, from Bealsville, OH, used a crossbow for a nice deer.



Shawn Riddle bagged a good 9 point in Lewis County.



DREAM
MOUNTAIN RANCH
8150 NORTH PRESTON HIGHWAY
ALBRIGHT, WV 26519

304-379-3098
304-698-7574

WHITETAIL BUCK
2021
PRICING

130	\$2,000
140	\$2,700
150	\$3,200
160	\$4,400
170	\$5,000
180	\$5,800
190	\$6,200
200-220	\$7,500
250-300	\$9,000
300+	CALL FOR PRICE

Racks Are Seasonal
• Book A Hunt Now For Fall
Exotic Animals Available NOW

EXOTIC HUNTS

- HOG HUNTS \$550 & UP
- BUFFALO \$2,500 & UP
- ELK COWS \$2,500
- BULL ELK \$4,500 & UP
- FALLOW BUCKS \$1,800 & UP
- RAM HUNTS \$350 & UP
- OTHER EXOTICS AVAILABLE

WE OFFER FISHING!

CALL FOR PRICING & AVAILABILITY

ADDITIONAL AMMENITIES

- WEDDING VENUE \$4,500 & UP
- CABIN RENTAL \$300 PER NIGHT
- LODGE \$900 & UP
- PAVILION RENTALS AVAILABLE

DEPOSITS WILL BE REQUIRED
PRICES ARE ESTIMATES & MAY FLUCTUATE
DUE TO ANIMAL AVAILABILITY

Hunting License Is Not Required



Lodging



Weddings

WWW.DREAMMOUNTAINRANCH.COM



Like us on Facebook!

DREAMMOUNTAINRANCH

Preseason Turkey Hunting Tips

Most of us have done it: We wake up and head into the turkey woods before daylight, not knowing where, when, or even if there is a turkey within 10 miles, much less a turkey within an acceptable range to make a move. And, yes, sometimes you can make it work. But if you want to better your odds, a few extra preseason hours spent in the woods can make a huge difference.

1. The only real way to get your mind wrapped around what a turkey is doing throughout the day is to spend time watching them. A great set of binoculars is key to scouting pre-season birds. I use an Athlon Optics 8x40 Ares. The 8x magnification is perfect for glassing birds at a distance and as with any high-quality glass, it is less likely to fog up in the warm spring weather. Watch them move in and out of food sources and pay attention to traveling routes. This makes setting-up ground blinds on mid-day strut zones and feeding areas much easier and also helps in determining how to set decoys within food sources to maximize visibility to approaching turkeys. Good, clear, high-quality optics help me identify individual birds that I may want to focus on.

continue to the next page

Burns' Bait & Carryout

**HUNT/FISH LICENSE
GAME CHECK**



www.bbcoutdoors.com - View For Information



**Guns
Ammo**



Tackle

Kayak Rentals

LIVE BAIT

- Worms - Minnows
- Fishing Tackle
- Hunting Equipment
- Beverages - Beer
- Food - Concessions

CAMPGROUND

INTERSECTION RT.5 & 53
484 LITTLE KANAWHA PKWY

ELIZABETH, WV

304-275-4444

Burnsfamilystore@gmail.com

Mon-Sat 5am to 11pm

Sun 8am to 9pm



**Minnows
Shiners
LIVE BAIT**



Karen Belcher used a crossbow for a Gilmer County buck.



Chantz Williams went to Tyler Couty for a 9 point buck.

**50 Yard Shot
INDOOR RANGE
OPEN NOW**

THE BOW SHOP

**NEW BOW TUNING
PRO SHOP**

HOYT • MATHEWS • DIAMOND • BOWTECH • MISSION • PEARSON

304-622-8440

Repair string and cables for most bows
Custom Arrows - Servicing Bows - Tuning

Open 10AM to 9PM T-F
12PM to 6PM Sat. & Sun.



Harold Cogar,
Owner

CROSSBOWS: Ravin - Parker - Cam X - Sub 1

Four Miles North Of Clarksburg On Rt. 19 & 20 (Across RR Tracks) **HEPZIBAH, WV**



2. Once I've located birds and potential ambush spots in core areas I place ground blinds, making sure to brush them in well and good. I use a layering system. I use big limbs right against the blind and, working my way out, use smaller grasses and cedar twigs to break up the outline and give added depth. Also keep in mind the direction of the sun in relation to where you will be looking. Nothing is worse than sitting in a ground blind and staring into the sun for hours on end.

3. After I have identified core areas and have a few mid-day blinds set up, I like to focus in on roosting areas. Most of the time turkeys will roost in the same general area—as long as a coyote or a lonesome hen doesn't change their pattern, of course. And, yes, spring birds do have a pattern—to an extent. They use the same fields, roosting areas and travel routes on a day-to-day basis. That being said, no matter how much homework you've done, a hen is a game changer in any scenario. A hot hen can take a habitual tom and lead him away on a leash.



Ronald Lamb got a great 9 point in Ritchie County. Photo courtesy of Crossroads General Store near Newark.

Success, in those cases, is all about versatility. It pays to have a plan if you need to make moves to cut him

off.

4. Open your ears in the turkey continue to the next page



**7 RIVERS
MARINE, LLC**



**YAMAHA
SUZUKI
OUTBOARD
Authorized
Service
And Sales**







**FALCON
BOATS**
Go Fish!



**X
xpress boats**



ALUMINUM BOATS

**3783 St Rt 124
Coolville, Ohio 45723**
(across the river from Parkersburg, WV)

740-846-0062

Sweetwater. **www.7riversmarine.com**

We Repair All Makes And Models Of Outboard and Inboard Engines

SHRINK WRAP



Will Not Draw Moisture

WINTERIZE Your outboard or inboard. All makes of engines.

SHRINK WRAP SPECIAL - \$13 per foot

• Bass Boats - Runabouts - Pontoon Boats



MON, TUE, THU 10-5, WED 12-6, FRI 10-6, SAT. 10-NOON

NEW & USED GUNS

JACKSON COUNTY PAWN



Buy - Sell - Trade - Loans

506 WALNUT ST.
RAVENSWOOD, WV
304-273-5961

**Gold - Musical Instruments - Ammo
Tools - Electronics - Archery - Guns - And More!**

Feb/March 2021 ~ Page 15

woods and you'll soon realize that vocalization is key to success when chasing spring gobblers. Practicing with your calls is one of the most crucial things we can do as turkey hunters. I spend weeks prior to every season with a diaphragm call in my mouth clucking, purring and yelping till I feel like I am right on pitch with that old boss hen I am trying to imitate. It helps to make sure that I can produce the calls and sounds I need to convince that old long beard that I'm in the mood for love.

5. Conditioning box calls and pot calls is a necessity and makes a huge difference in the quality and consistency of the sounds your call produces. I keep a good supply of box-call chalk and sand paper on hand before and during the season. For me, it's a night-before-the-hunt tradition to get all my calls out and get everything in pristine condition for the next day. It gets me in the right mindset and also helps me get out all the call-jitters so I feel comfortable calling when the real time comes.

6. Last but not least: Make sure your firearm is in working order. You'd be surprised at how many times turkey hunters have hit the woods only to experience the dreaded "click" of a busted gun. Let's be honest: Nothing else matters if you can't close the deal. A working gun is first and foremost, but to further

ensure a successful, ethical harvest, it pays to pattern your shotgun and make sure your using a good combination of gun, choke and shells to get the maximum lethality from your thunderstick. I like to pattern my gun at 30 yards. But I recommend also checking it at 40, 50 and even 60 yards to see what your maximum effective range is. This can be a not-so-pleasant experience with the punishing blow of a 3½-inch turkey load. I advise any hunter to pattern their shotgun from a rest or a gun sled. This reduces recoil and in turn provides a more accurate assessment of the pattern.

In the end we can do everything right and still not bring home a bird. However, I have learned that if you spend the time in the woods and do your homework it not only increases your chance of success, but makes for a much more rewarding hunt. Anyone can get lucky and happen across a bird now and then. Knowing you did your part, knowing the skill involved in taking that trophy tom—that's what bragging rights are all about.

Article By Richard Edington.

Advertise In The
W. Va. Sportsman
 • Low Rates
 • 30 Years In Business
 • LOW RATES

**SPENCER'S
TAXIDERMY**

304-824-3745
 Over 41 Years
 Experience

BIRDS • FISH • ANTLERS
LIFE SIZE MOUNTS GAMEHEADS
WEST HAMLIN, WV
 ACROSS FROM THE POST OFFICE
FULL TIME TAXIDERMY SERVICE



Charles McDonald got a wide racked buck. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sportins Goods in Elkins.

**NEW 17 Pitch 13 3/4 - 4 Blade
Mercury Trophy
Stainless Propeller
And Hubs**



• Ideal 70 to 135 HP
CALL 304-482-7217
WILL DELIVER \$200



BOONE'S BOW SHOP

3-D RANGE - PRACTICE RANGE

INDOOR ARCHERY RANGE

Located On Larkmead Rd
 Parkersburg, WV 304-863-6962

MISSION
BEAR

- Archery Shoots
- Leagues
- Group Discounts



Online Every 6 Weeks For FREE
www.wvasportsman.net



Click me for your next adventure!



STATE RECORD

Be sure to like us on our Facebook Page under Mark Goudy. Submit your current big game and fish photos on our wall or TEXT your current game & fish photos from this year to 304-482-7217. Be included in the next addition of the Sportsman!

<https://www.facebook.com/mark.goudy.58>

Click Below to Open this month's Free Internet Issue of the W.Va. Sportsman Magazine

W. Va. Sportsman
"The where to and how to magazine for the outdoor enthusiast"
Issue 288
October/November 2020
INSIDE THIS ISSUE
Deer TIPS
B.A.S.S. News
DNR Updates
Outdoor Photos

You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader Version 7.0 or later to view the Sportsman Magazine. If you don't have it, click the image below to get the latest version.



STATE RECORD



STATE RECORD

Check out the
October/November 2020
Issue

- Back Issues There From 2006 To Present
- Advertisers Web Sites Links
- DNR Stream Report • Advertising Rates

Alabama Bass May End Up In WV

An angler in Virginia had been fishing at Claytor Lake in Virginia and caught what he thought was a state record spotted bass. After DNA examination, it turns out it was an Alabama bass which is a cousin to the spotted bass.

Why is that a concern for West Virginia anglers? Strippers are known

to leave Claytor Lake and travel to Bluestone Lake. The stripers are often leave Bluestone Lake and are sometimes caught clear up to Sandstone Falls. It's quite possible that eventually, Alabama bass may end up in the New River and later the Kanawha River. Eventually, the Ohio River is next. Worse yet, the

Alabama bass can cross breed with smallmouth bass. The impact on the smallmouth population in the New River will be dramatic.

Spotted bass are often disregarded by anglers as a smaller sort of bass, and by some fishery managers as a small, aggressive species that can become overabundant and reduce populations of other bass species. But those who have caught "spots" appreciate their whip-cracking strikes and tough fights.

And what about the not uncommon catches of spotted bass over 5

continue to page 20

2021 Boats In Stock

Great Selection Of Quality Used Boats

Jon Boats For 9.9 Lakes Available

Pontoon & Bass Boats

www.wrightsriverseamarine.com

- FIBERGLASS
- ALUMINUM
- PONTOON



Ranger[®] BOATS

E-TEC G2
Outboards



Wright's Riverside Marine

Rt. 2 South of
St. Marys, WV
304-684-2850

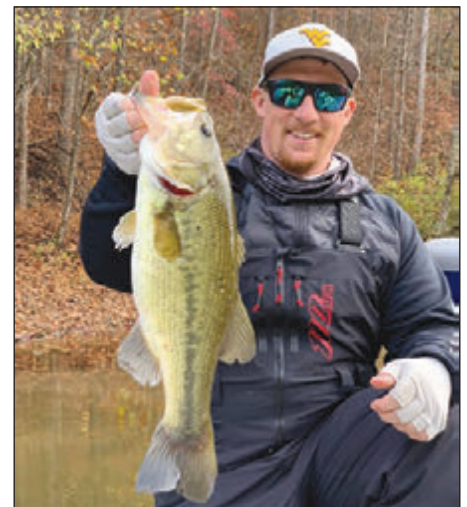
Certified Service Department

EVINRUDE

#1 In District Total Horsepower Dealer



Young Bryar Weeks hunted in the snow for a great whitetail buck.



Aaron Riffle landed a late season largemouth bass.



HUGE Selection Of Fishing Tackle

Located In The United Oilfield Building

Rapala • Yo-Zuri • Matzuo • Norman • Strike King • Berkely • Storm
 Castiac • KW • Rage • Yamamoto • Yum • Rebel • Bandit • 6th Sense
 Bomber • AC Shiner • Jackall • Havoc • Net Bait • Z Man • Gamakatsu
 VMC • Cabin Creek • Rick Clunn • Bass Pro • Live Target • AAT
 Duel • Lungerhunt • River 2 Sea • Lucky Strike • Reaction • KVD
 Zoom • FYAO • Missile • Venom • Gulp • Cotton Cordell • & MORE!

**Fishing & Hunting Supplies
 Gun Accessories • Clothing
 Trapping and much more!**



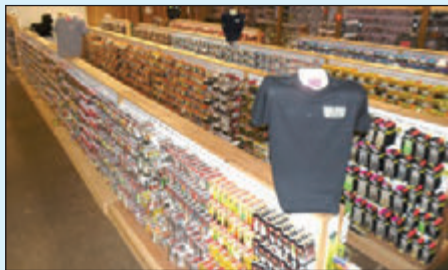
RODS

4,000 In Stock

**RODS: AVORITE • LEW'S
 CASHION • BERKLEY
 FENWICK • ABU GARCIA
 ZEBCO • G LOOMIS • HALO
 13 FISHING - ST. CROIX
 PENN • DAIWA**

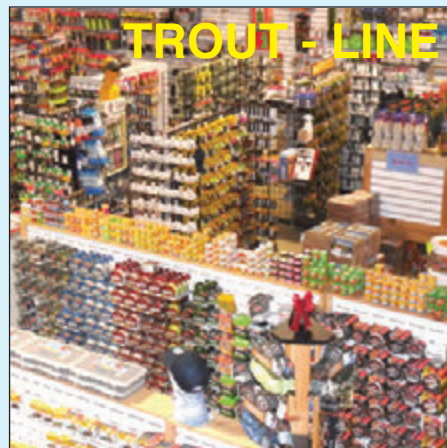
LIVE BAIT

Minnows • Worms • Mealworms



**CRANKBAITS
 TACKLE**

Ohio River Outdoors LLC
 On Facebook



TROUT - LINE



COOLERS

PELICAN - CALCUTTA

*Just Outside Of Parkersburg
 13520 Emerson Ave.*

Williamstown, WV 26187 On RT. 2
 3.3 Miles From I77 Emerson Ave Exit



REELS



PLASTICS



MUSKY

SMUTTY DOG • LEOPARDIS CRANE
 TYRANT • JH BAIT • BITE BACK
 JONES • HUGHES RIVER • BOGGS
 COBB'S • MYERS • LLUNGEN
 RED OCTOBER • HOTTAIL & MORE

304-916-1800

in some southeastern reservoirs and recent catches of 10- and 11-pound specimens in California. What's up with spotted bass?

History

In 1802, the fisheries world recognized two species of black bass: largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides*, and smallmouth bass, *Micropterus dolomieu*, first described by French naturalist Bernard Germain de Lacépède. The spotted bass was proposed as a separate species, *Micropterus punctulatus*, in 1819, but not officially recognized until 1940. Any angler who's tangled with spots might wonder what took so long to recognize such a different fish as a different species. But as we know, there are rules for the scientific community to recognize new species, and the process moves slowly.

Biologists puzzled for decades why some spotted bass populations offered anglers large fish (over 3 pounds) while spotted bass over 15 inches and 1.5 pounds were rare in others. Subspecies of spotted bass—northern spotted bass, also called Kentucky spotted bass, and Alabama spotted bass—have long

continue to the next page

ARCHERY

- Excaliber Striker
- Bows
- Crossbows

DEER FEED

- Corn
- Available By The Ton \$260
- Custom Blends Available



FISHING TACKLE

FOOD PLOT

- Numerous Seeds
- LIVE BAIT**
- Worms
- Minnows
- More
- SUPPLIES**
- Scents
- Trail Cams
- More



GUNS AMMO

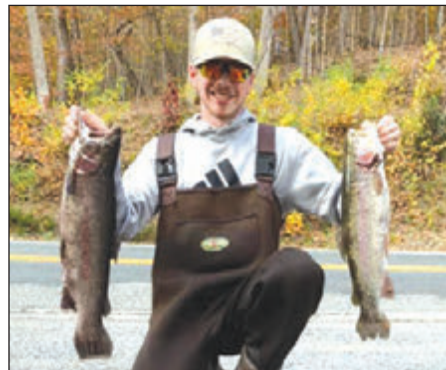
Stop by our fully stocked hunting and fishing store!

Open: Mon-Fri 8 - 5
Sat 9-3
Closed Sunday

**1102 West Main St.
Grafton, WV
304-265-9278**



**DEER ATTRACTANTS
CORN - FEED**



Logan Garner, from Parkersburg, caught a couple of large trout.



Jesse Hatfield arrowed a double drop tined Logan Co. buck.



LAKE VIEW CABINS

**Overlooking Stonewall Jackson Lake
~ 100 Yards From The Boat Ramp ~**

Stay with us while you enjoy the Stonewall Jackson Lake area. Minutes from the state park which offers the Arnold Palmer Golf Course and boat rentals. Also, 1 1/2 miles from Stonecoal Lake Wildlife Area (public hunting & fishing). Only 6 miles from I-79 exit 96 or 4.5 miles from Rt. 33 - Corridor H - near Weston, WV

- A/C
- TV - DVD
- Barbecue Grill
- Large Porch Area
- Easy Access
- Great View Of Lake
- Fully Equipped Kitchen Including Dishwasher

NOW BOOKING
FOR SPRING & SUMMER
SEASON RENTALS
Easy Access To Public
Hunting Areas. 15,000 Acres
On Stonewall Jackson & 3,000
Acres On Stonecoal

For More Info & Reservations

304-452-9876



IRVINE'S CAMPER SALES

740-989-2291 800-987-4275
www.irvinescamper.com

Located close to Parkersburg, WV On US Rt. 50
2 Miles From The Corridor D Bridge

17 State Rt. 555 Little Hocking, Ohio

**NEW
USED**
Exclusive
Jayco Dealer



been recognized. The Alabama bass, *Micropterus henshalli*, was recognized as a separate species in 2008 after scientists found that it wasn't closely related to the northern spotted bass, but genetically most similar to the redeye bass.

Yet for many anglers and a few biologists, the Alabama bass is still a spotted bass. But recognizing the separate identity of these two "spotted bass" species is important for several reasons, including effective management, angler expectations, and establishing catch records. For clarity, I use the names of these fish now recognized by the American Fisheries Society—Alabama bass and spotted bass.

Biology



Jase Wiseman shot a great 14 point buck. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

Spotted bass are native to the southeastern U.S. from the Appalachians west to eastern Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. The species has been introduced peripheral to its native range and as far west as California. While studies have documented subtle habitat preferences, spotted bass can thrive in most waters that contain largemouth or smallmouth bass. They reach sexual maturity at 11 to 12 inches and spawning occurs when water temperatures are 60°F to 72°F. Shallow nests are excavated on firm bottom in shallow water, although spotted bass are known to spawn deeper than other black bass.

Spotted bass are opportunistic predators, with adults consuming primarily fish and crayfish. Although varying throughout their range, spotted bass usually grow to 12 inches in about three years and 16 to 18 inches by age-7. Maximum size rarely exceeds 3 pounds, but state records over 6 pounds have been caught from waters not known to have Alabama bass (Arkansas: 7 pounds 15 ounces; Mis-

200+ Campsites • All Utilities
Cabins With Jacuzzis
Stocked Trout
Tube Rentals
Cable TV

Revelle's



US Rt 33
9 Miles East Of Elkins
BOWDEN, WV
304-636-0023
www.revelles.com



souri 7 pounds 8 ounces; Tennessee: 6 pounds 11 ounces).

The Alabama bass is native to the Mobile River basin (Alabama, Black Warrior, Cahaba, Coosa, Tallapoosa, and Tombigbee rivers) in Alabama, eastern Mississippi, and northwestern Georgia. The species continue to the next page



Wayne Worth reeled in a 22 1/2" brown trout.

HANK'S DISCOUNT & PAWN SHOP

SPORTING GOODS • PAWN SHOP
NEW & USED GUNS • SCOPES • AMMO
MANY OF YOUR HUNTING NEEDS IN STOCK

69 N. MAIN ST.
PHILIPPI, WV 26416
304-457-1268



COVID 19

We encourage all West Virginians to follow safe guidelines in the fight against this virus. Take an opportunity to visit the numerous tourist destinations that this wonderful state offers. Hopefully this will be all behind us soon. Be safe and good luck this hunting season.

VISIT WEST VIRGINIA



304-269-3459
235 Haven Lane, Roanoke, WV 26447
Phone: 304-269-3459 or 866-652-3379

email: info@hillbillyhaven.com

website: www.hillbillyhaven.com

First-class vacation cabins conveniently located one mile off Interstate 79, Exit 91 one mile south on US 19 towards lake

Call or visit our website for rates, additional information, and policies. A 50% deposit is required for reservations. Major credit cards are accepted.

HILLBILLY HAVEN LOG CABIN RENTALS

Situated on 50 wooded acres in beautiful Central West Virginia, just two minutes from Stonewall Jackson Lake and Stonewall Resort

- All log cabins are exceptionally clean and beautifully decorated to be your home away from home.
- Private, romantic, remote, peaceful and safe environment
- Honeymoon cabins with hot tub sleeps two.
- Four person cabins have full bed downstairs and two twin beds in loft.
- Six person cabins have king or queen beds and two full beds, whirlpool tub or hot tub dishwasher, and washer and dryer.
- Eight person cabins have four bedrooms. Two baths and an eight person hot tub.
- Accessible cabin available.
- Satellite TV and DVD player
- Gas log fireplace and air conditioning
- Full bath with shower
- Picnic table, fire ring, gas grill, stocked pond, playground and horseshoe pits
- Convenience store on-site with gift shop, WV souvenirs, and many hillbilly gifts
- Open 365 days a year
- Stonewall Resort with fine restaurants and Arnold Palmer Golf course. 2,650 acre Stonewall Jackson Lake with all types of water recreation, fishing and hunting just two minutes away.
- Join the fun this year.

has been introduced to California, Texas, and east of its restricted range. Limited habitat studies suggest Alabama bass orient to slow currents in rivers, and deeper water and rock and gravel habitats in reservoirs. They seem to thrive when faced with fluctuating water levels. Spawning isn't well described but seems similar to spotted bass. Diet of adults is fish and crayfish.

Alabama bass grow to 12 inches by age-3 and to 23 inches by age-8 in central Alabama reservoirs. The Alabama state record is 8 pounds 15 ounces, and the California and world-record fish is 11 pounds 4 ounces.

Identification

Genetic analysis is the only way to be sure a specimen is an Alabama bass or a spotted bass, but external characteristics can be used to distinguish Alabama bass and spot-

ted bass. The most reliable way to separate the species is to count the "pored scales" (scales with holes) in the lateral line. Although tedious, this can be done with a low-power magnifying glass. Alabama bass usually have 71 or more pored scales, spotted bass 70 or fewer.



Travis Heater, from Weston, caught & released a big Stonewall musky.



John Hanshaw used a bow for a nice 10 point from Nicholas Co.



Anthony Godwin, from Burnsville, hooked a winter largemouth bass.

HUNT SAFELY IN 2021 - GOOD LUCK

~ **WANTED** ~
Game Photos From 20/21



Mark Goudy
 Now On Facebook



Send In Your Photo (email or text)
**Deer (big bucks - no does), Bear or Other Game
 Animals Taken During The 2020/21 Season.**

It's FREE

Clip out and Mail In

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Animal _____ Deer Points _____
 County _____ Gun _____ Bow _____

No DOES!



**PHOTOS WILL
 BE RETURNED**

Have your photo published
 in this magazine this year.

**Either Mail in Or E-Mail
 To This Magazine.**

**W.Va. Sportsman
 P.O. Box 5521
 Vienna, WV 26105**

**TEXT 304-482-7217
 wvasport@gmail.com**

Walleye Fishing Sees Improvement In WV

SOUTH CHARLESTON, W.VA. — Anglers in West Virginia who want a good chance at catching a trophy walleye have the next two months to enjoy some of the best fishing in the state.



Zack Keener has a double drop tine buck. Photo courtesy of Hardcore Hunters in Grafton.

"There's never a bad time to go fishing when you're in West Virginia, but if you want to target walleye, especially in rivers, you need to go in colder months, between November and March," said Mark Scott, assistant chief of fish management for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

West Virginia's native walleye grow quickly and reach trophy

sizes, which makes them a popular sport fish for anglers. These unique, large-eyed predators also have been part of a special management project to improve and diversify fishing opportunities in the Mountain State since the early 2000s.

"It's encouraging to see all our efforts paying off," Scott said.

continue to page 27

Lloyd's SPORTSMAN CENTER

Hunting * Fishing * Camping * Boating

Carhartt Clothing - Muck • Georgia • Wolverine Boots

Ammunition - Fly Fishing - Hackle - Targets - Scents

Gun Cleaning - Lots of Fishing Equipment - Much More!

RV and Boat Equipment - Hardware - Tools

Exit 67 Off Of I-79 - Rt 19 North 1/4 Mile

Sutton, WV 304-765-3332





THE BEST VALUE IN SIDE-BY-SIDES JUST GOT BETTER.

2 YEAR WARRANTY ON ALL CFMOTO SIDE BY SIDES



1 YEAR + **1 YEAR**
FACTORY + **CFMOTO CARE**
EXTENDED PROTECTION

See terms and conditions.



ROY'S RV SUPERCENTER

3437 Beverly Pike

Elkins, WV 26241

<https://www.roysrv.com>

800.447.7697

WARNING: CFMOTO recreational vehicles are intended for off-road use only, and can be hazardous to operate. Read Owner's Manual and all product labels before operating. Never operate on paved roads. Operators and passengers must wear a helmet, eye protection and protective clothing. Operators must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license. Passengers, if permitted, must be at least 12 years old. Always use seat belts, cab netting and doors (if equipped). Never operate under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Avoid excessive speed and sharp turns, and never engage in stunt driving. Check state and local laws before operating on trails. Take a safety training course before operating. Contact your CFMOTO dealer for more information, call the ATV Safety Institute at 1-800-887-2887, or go to www.atvsafety.org. ©2020 Zhejiang CFMOTO Power Co., Ltd.

West Virginia's Premier Shopping Experience

ROY'S RV SUPERCENTER LLC

www.roysrv.com

- MOTORHOMES
- TRAVEL TRAILERS
- 5TH WHEELS
- FOLDING TRAILERS

Shop Our Parts and Accessories Store For All of Your Camping Needs... We Have It All!

Located in Elkins, WV

The Weather is Always Perfect in Our 10,000 Sq. Foot Indoor Showroom!



304-636-1690

Toll Free 800-447-7697



**32222 BEVERLY PIKE
ELKINS, WV**

*"We Have The Go
In The Snow!"*

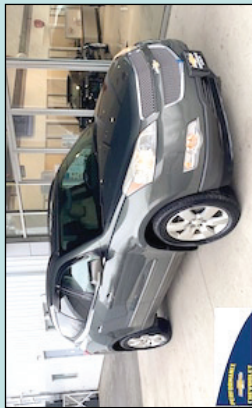
PERFORMANCE



CHEVROLET

304.637.0000
performancechevywv.com

**WELCOME TO
TRUCK COUNTRY**



UH210397
2011 Chevrolet Traverse LTZ SUV



UH726716
2019 Toyota 4Runner SR5 SUV



UH159494
2015 Chevrolet Tahoe LTZ SUV



2021 Chevrolet
Suburban
Z71 SUV

H241813



2020 Chevrolet
Traverse
High Country
SUV

H301315



2021 Chevrolet
Silverado
1500 RST
Truck

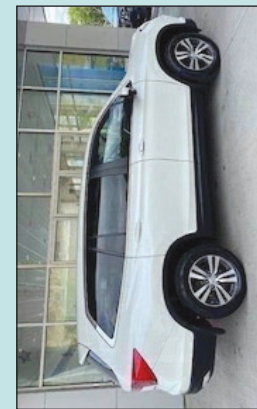
H194787



UH608519
2013 Jeep Wrangler Sahara SUV



UH406913
2007 Toyota Tacoma Truck



UH054040
2018 Honda Pilot EX-L SUV

TRUCK COUNTRY SALE PRICE
\$67,960

TRUCK COUNTRY SALE PRICE
\$51,203

TRUCK COUNTRY SALE PRICE
\$48,280

All vehicles subject to prior sale. Sales CANNOT be used in conjunction with another. Rebates and discounts subject to change due to the manufacturer. All pricing with approved credit on qualifying vehicles. Tax, Tag and Title fees not included. New model pictures for illustration only. Pricing on new models expires on 3/01/2021.

"Photos of big walleye are getting out on social media and anglers in other states are seeing it and taking notice of all the great fishing opportunities here in West Virginia."

Scott said outfitters around the state have told him that people as far as Canada are visiting the state to go walleye fishing.

"It's cool to hear that because it means we've developed a fishery that's known worldwide," he said.

Catching Walleye

Walleye usually feed early in the morning and late in the evening or on overcast days. Scott says anglers should target walleye during these low-light periods when fish are most active.

"Anything that blocks upstream movement such as locks and dams or waterfalls are good places to target walleye," Scott said. "For our native walleye, anglers will want to fish the rivers upstream of the Winfield Lock and Dam such as the Elk River, Coal River, upper Kanawha River and New River."

This time of year, walleye are moving upstream to areas such as Kanawha Falls, Sandstone Falls and the falls on the Coal River to prepare for spawning. When they can't swim further upstream, they congregate in preparation for the



Rick Lewis reeled in a quality rainbow trout.

Hillbilly Hunting Beagles

Pups
Starting \$150



PKC/AKC/UKC/NKC Pups~Hunting/Field Trial Dogs
 Hunting Lights • Garmin GPS Tracking System • Diamond Deluxe
 Dog Collars & Straps • Easy Loader • All Types Of Vinyl Coated Wire
 David Dewees (304) 545-3820 By Appointment Only

3223 Fishers Ridge, Kenna, WV 25248

spawning season in March.

"There are a lot of walleye in these areas right now," Scott said. "Now's a perfect time to go out and enjoy a fishing trip but anglers need to familiarize themselves with the regulations for the rivers they will be fishing. Some areas such as Sandstone Falls are under no-harvest regulations or other special regulations."

To enjoy the thrill of catching a walleye, anglers need to purchase a 2021 West Virginia Fishing license, available at license agents and WVDNR district offices around the state and online at wvfish.com.



Shawn Reed bagged a 15 point buck in Doddridge County.

**REELS
RODS**





L
I
V
E

B
A
I
T

HUGE SELECTION OF LIVE BAIT
*Minnows - Hellgram tes - Lizards - Worms
 Goldfish - Shiners - Meal & Wax Worms - More*

**Tackle By: Warden • Super Duper • Strike King
 Berkley • Mepps • Owner • Zoom • Yum • Gamakatsu
 Tru-Turn • Zoom • Trout Magnet • Eagle Claw • Daiwa
 Cabin Creek • Shakespeare • St. Croix • Zebco • Case
 Ugly Stik • Gitzit • Rebel • Heddon • Rapala & More!**

Camping Supplies • Musky Tackle • Marine Products

**1427 Robert C. Byrd Drive
 Crab Orchard, WV**

PC OUTDOORS 304-466-1444

PSE Bear

Killer Instinct Barnett

Hoo Doo

Kayaks

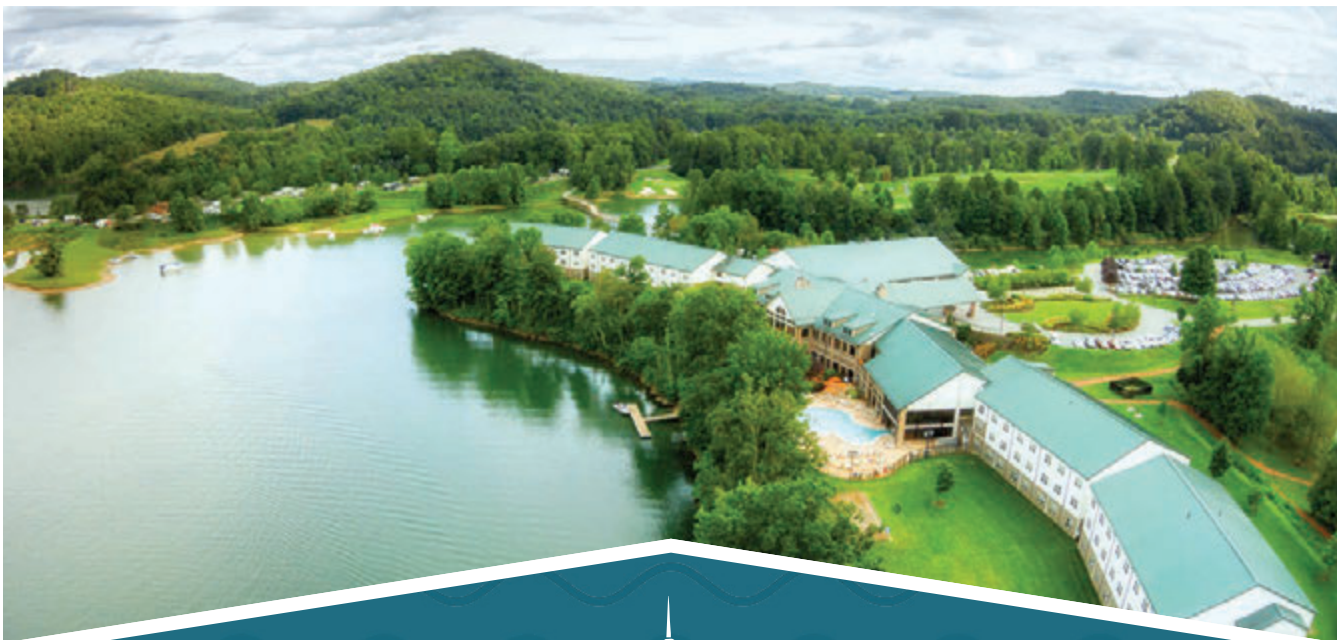


STONEWALL LAKE & RESORT
WVU JACKSON'S MILL
STONECOAL LAKE
TRANS-ALLEGHENY LUNATIC ASYLUM

*B*oyhood home of **Stonewall Jackson**. The **best musky fishing** in the state. The **largest hand-cut stone** masonry building in North America. Home to West Virginia's **largest yard sale**. 18 championship holes designed by **Arnold Palmer**. The **scariest paranormal tour** in the region. Destination for your next **legendary** get-away. **It's Stonewall Country.**

Where Legends are Made

**CREATE LEGENDARY ADVENTURES AT
STONEWALLCOUNTRY.COM
304-269-7328**



Lewis County CVB on Facebook or www.stonewallcountry.com 304-269-7328

Winter Bass Fishing

I live in east Tennessee where I'm blessed to be able to fish 12 months a year. The smallmouth fishing can be really good here in wintertime on our highland lakes like Cherokee and Norris.

The smallmouth is the most active species in winter, but things have changed a lot over the past 10 years or so. When I fished for wintertime smallies as a teenager, they would be feeding on crawfish and threadfin shad in 5 to 20 feet of water. One way to pick them off was by casting to rock transitions on the bank. It wasn't that complicated.

You only needed three or four lures back then. Day in and day out a finesse jig was the most consistent bait. Jerkbait and crankbaits that mimicked threadfin shad would catch them, too.

Those tactics still work, but not as consistently as they used to. When I fish transition banks these days I throw a 3/8-ounce finesse jig dressed with a 4-inch Yamamoto Double Tail Grub, a Duel Hardcore Minnow Flat SP jerkbait and a Duel Hardcore Shad crankbait.

Somehow, alewives were introduced into these lakes several years

ago. They have overtaken threadfin shad as the primary bass forage and have completely changed the way we fish for the smallmouth. It's kind of like what happened when blueback herring got into lakes in the Carolinas. Wintertime smallmouth now tend to stay much deeper and move with the alewives.

Instead of reading rock transitions on the bank like I used to do, I have to spend a lot of time idling around offshore looking for schools of alewives 20- to 50-feet deep with my Lowrance units. I typically find the bass relating to alewives on flats and gentle tapering points. Alewives, especially on Cherokee, like to hang in depressions on the bottom. These places look like old

continue to the page 31

**CENTENNIAL
MOTEL**

22 North Locust Street
Buckhannon, WV
26201

(304) 472-4100



Thad Duvall used his bow for an outstanding buck.



Jack Furman used a bow for a good deer. Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.

**Middle Mountain
Sporting
Goods
and
Mini-Mart**

GUNS

Cold Beer
Hot Dogs
Hamburgers
Pepperoni Rolls
Discount Tobacco

Crossbows: 10 Point - Wicked Ridge & More

Expert Bow Tuning • Ammo

Rage - Muzzy - Boss - Wasp - Carhart - Scentbloc

Custom Arrows & Fletching - Moultrie Deer Feeders

Georgia Boots - Tree Stands - Dog Supplies - Trapping

Fishing Rods & Reels
Tackle - Trout Baits - Custom Flies
Nitro • Mike's • Joe's Flies • Berkley

5AM to 9PM
7 Days A Week

LIVE BAIT

Minnows • Wax Worm
Night Crawlers & More

RT. 33 East
Just Before The 4 Lane
ELKINS, WV
304-636-5569

VIRTUAL BOAT SHOW LIVE ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



February 13 9am & March 13 9am

TRACKER
boats

Bass Tracker

Classic XL

\$13,390
(Plus Freight & Prep)
w/50 HP MERCURY
FOURSTROKE MOTOR

MERCURY

A large red Tracker Classic XL boat is shown on a lake. Two people are on board. The boat has a Mercury outboard motor. The background shows a forested shoreline.

30th Anniversary Celebration

Win a **FREE** Tracker Classic XL

Register on our Facebook page or Instore
Drawing March 13 3:00pm

*No Purchase Necessary • Void Where Prohibited
One Entry Per Person Contact us for complete details*

4 Miles South of Huntington **(304) 525-4556**

www.thegreatoutdoorsmarine.com

ponds or sinkholes on Navionics lake charts.

One of my most productive presentations is casting a little 4-inch Yamamoto Single Tail Grub on a 1/2-ounce finesse football jighead. I throw it out there, let it go to the bottom and slow roll it right over the rocks. Natural Shad and Baby Bass are two really good colors for this.

Another effective deal is to vertically fish a jighead dressed with a soft plastic minnow bait. Some people call this the freestyle jig technique. Others call it the Damiki rig. The jig should have a very realistic looking minnow head. I put a Yamamoto Shad Shape Worm on a 3/8-ounce jig and drop it down through the alewives and hover it over the smallmouth I see on my Lowrance units.

It can be a frustrating way to catch them because you'll see a bass come up to the bait, go back down, come up again and sometimes refuse the jig again. They're picky because they have so many alewives to munch on.

If you can keep your jig in the right zone long enough, a bass will



Jeff Shaffer shot a buck this hunting season.

GROVE MARINE

Financing Available
~ Your Full Service Dealer ~

TRACKER

boats

304-547-5044

7 MILES EAST OF
WHEELING TUNNELS
MIDDLE CREEK ROAD
Triadelphia, WV

9am to 5pm M-F
Sat 10am to Noon

finally commit to it. When you catch one, the school fires up and you can catch three to five bass in a row. It's a great technique for a team tournament because when one angler hooks up, there's a really high chance that the partner will hook up immediately.



Roger Russell, from Weston, caught a late season largemouth.



Josh Freed landed a 5 pound, 5 oz. bass in a backwater off the Ohio River this winter.

www.rogersmithmarine.com

Rodger Smith

M A R I N E

4876 Route 152
Lavalette, WV 25535

304-529-0487

Skeeter
South Bay
Alumacraft

Bass Fishing 101

In the old days of tournament bass fishing, those individuals who always did well were fishermen who everyone knew, and they were referred to as the “ringers”. We all know you I’m talking about whether it was on the Ohio river, or the mighty Mon, and all the states lakes. Certain names always seem to show up at the end of the day, and to nobodies surprise, these angular always seemed to find fish when others didn’t, and cash a check. How did they consistently find, and catch fish when others didn’t?

This article is meant to demonstrate to the next generation of bass anglers some of the key aspects of being competitive in bass fishing in our state, or anywhere in the country. It is my hope that maybe the

reader will take a little something away from the contents of this article, and learn from my mistakes, and become better at competing in this highly competitive sport. I’ve seen countless people in this sport show up on tournament day, launch their boat, and come in at the end of the day discouraged because they didn’t catch the size, and quantity of fish they needed to place, or

By Mark Garner
win the event. While it’s true that everyone cannot win, but you have to ask yourself this important question. “Did you put yourself in a position to win”? Meaning, were you around the size, and quantity of bass to put together a winning weight? It’s very difficult to win a bass tournament, but if you put

continue to page34



This hunter used a bow in Mingo County for a double drop buck.



SURE CATCH
TROUT FISH FARM
STOCKED 5 MILES NORTH OF
ELKINS, WV
BAIT & TACKLE OLD RT. 219
304-636-1278 STALNAKER RD.

OPEN FRI/SAT WEEKDAYS
9AM - DARK BY APPOINTMENT

OPENING IN MARCH

Remington • Winchester • Weatherby • Browning • Rossi

PARK CENTER SPORTING GOODS

Park Center
RAINELLE, WV
304-438-5660

9AM to 8PM Daily
12:30PM to 5PM Sun



Large Seletion
Of Trout
Tackle & Baits



CROSSBOWS BY: RAVIN
• BARNETTE • BEAR • KILLER
INSTINCT • CARBON EXPRESS
COMPOUND BOWS BY:
MATHEWS • HOYT • BEAR




LARGE SELECTION
Of Guns & Ammo

Franchi • NEF • Henry • Mossberg • Rouge • Braztech • Marlin • EAA • Liberty

Ruger • Glock • Benelli • Bersa • Taurus • Springfield • Smith & Wesson • Savage

Kimber • T-C Encore • Traditions • CVA • Thompson Center

Paradise RVs

MON-FRI 8-5 SAT 9-5

Where Your Journey Begins!



VIKING • APEX • ADRENALINE
CATALINA • SANDPIPER • SPIRIT
LEPRECHAUN CLASS C MOTORHOMES
CHAPARRAL 5TH WHEEL



Leprechaun Class C



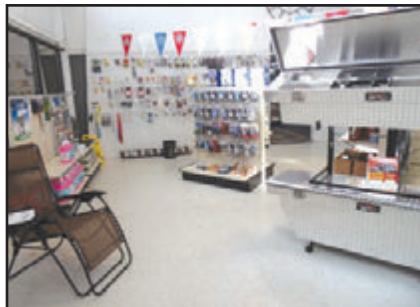
Bed Liners - Parts



PONTOONS



Sanitation Items



Anti-Gravity Chairs



BASS BOATS
JON BOATS



Weather Tech Products

**NEW & USED
RV'S
BOATS**

**Lots Of
RV Parts**

Service



TRAVEL TRAILERS



5TH WHEELS & MOTORHOMES

www.paradiservs.net
138 Colt Industrial Dr.
MOUNT HOPE, WV 25909
304-860-1948



- Full Line Of Trapping Supplies
- Large Assortment Of Dog Collars And Leads - Engraved Name Tags
- Full Line Of Fur House Supplies
- Skinning - Fleshing & Tanning
- Large Assortment Of Tanned Furs & Hides. Beaver Hoops
- Mountain Man Raccoon Hats
- Skulls & Skull Dipping - Bear Rugs. Deer - Coyote - Beaver Mink - Squirrel - Bobcat Furs
- All Types Of Snares - Traps & Cable Stakes
- Large Selection Of Lures & Urines
- Buyer Of Raw Furs & Hides
- Deer Attractants & Lures

William's Fur & Trapping Supply Shop Four Generations Of Fur Buying & Trapping

**NIGHT EYES
Predator Lights & Calls
WV Distributor**

**410 3rd Run Road
GLENVILLE, WV 26351
1/4 Mile From Rt. 5 on Tanner Road**

Smokey's
Deer Lures, Calls & Baits
World's Only Pre-Orbital Gland Lure

CALL FOR APPOINTMENT NOW
304-462-7028

yourself into a position to win, you more than like finished in the top 10% of the field. This is how I always gauged how well I was keyed into the tournament and the fishing on that particular day. At the end of the day, if I had put myself in a position to win, then that was a success!

Is there a learning curve associated with bass fishing, absolutely! Is this curve as steep, and difficult to master as it used to be, definitely not! In the not too distant past, the only way to become an angular that was a threat to win was to spend hours and hours of practice on a given body of water. You also had to develop solid techniques with baits that you were confident with. I know one very successful angular who likes to use a Zoom brush hog 90% of the time when he is fishing plastics. I asked him one time if he ever used anything else, and

he replied " why"? I took that to mean that he had 100% confidence in this bait, and his success in tournaments says that he is right! So the moral of this point is you do not have to have hundreds of baits in all the colors made. I know of another highly successful angular who loves to fish the Yamato Sen-

ko bait, and he had a larger stock of senkos than most sporting good stores! He is equally as proficient
continue to the next page

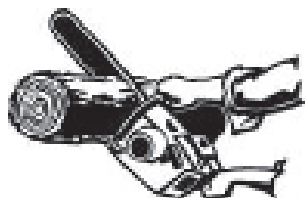


Jennifer Simmons had success with a quality buck. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*



Young Kaden Knight bagged a buck. *Photo courtesy of Middle Mountain Sporting Goods in Elkins.*

CRISS SALES & SERVICE



(304)
472-1474

OLD WESTON ROAD
BUCKHANNON, WV

Husqvarna Shindaiwa & More

Lawn & Garden
Saws & Trimmers

BRUSHY FORK MART

Brushy Fork Road
Buckhannon, WV
(1.3 Miles From US Rt. 33)

GAS

Gasoline
Diesel
Kerosene

**LIVE
BAIT**

WV Lottery & Powerball

We Have SHINERS
and CRAPPIE MINNOWS

Mon to Sat 6am to 10pm-
Sun 7am to 9pm



304-472-5132

Tri - Lakes
Rt. 19 Walkersville

Ammo
Live Bait
Game Checking
Fishing Supplies

Easy Access To Stonewall Jackson
Stonecoal & Burnsville Lakes

304-452-8870

Camp Sites - Full Hookups

Chalets - Call For Reservations
Eat-in or Carry Out Food - Pizza
Hoagies - Subs - Burgers
Beverages - More

GAS

6am to 10pm Mon - Sat
9am to 9pm Sun

"Business Goes Where Invited
Stays Where Appreciated"

Colonial Hotel - Motel

Hunters & Fishermen

TV & AC

Welcome

FREE

Parking

Center Of City

304-472-3000

24 N. Kanawha St.

BUCKHANNON, WV 26101

Dalton Cutwright, owner

with his choice of soft plastic as the brush hog angular, and I'd never bet against him when the fish are focused upon a finicky bite! It's all about becoming knowledgeable of what the fish want, and how they want it. Lastly, I know of another fisherman who hardly ever pitches plastics because he has learned how to get bites on a jig. He fishes a jig as his primary go to bait, and can send it zipping out of his bait caster mere inches above the water, and drop it behind a log with nary a splash. It's uncanny how many places he can get his jig into, and usually his "jig fish" tend to be larger bass. I cornered him after an event where he had 5 fish for 15.05 pounds, all on a jig, and asked him why he liked to fish a jig. He said because it catches bigger fish! I thought that was a pretty solid answer! He went on to say that jig fishing to him was the best way to catch quality fish, and a jig can be made to imitate a crawfish, bluegill or anything that swims that an ole bass might just want to snack on. Based upon his track record, I tend

to agree.

So, in short, if I could offer anyone any advice, learn from these three successful anglers, and pick three different baits that you would like to fish with, and learn how to fish them in any type of cover, and water condition. Later on in your fishing you will adopt new techniques, and maybe develop you own way of catching bass! Until then, stick with the basics, spend time on the water, join a club and enjoy this sport we call bass fishing.



Zach Turbaugh brought in a huge Marshall County buck.

FREE Online

www.wvasportsman.net

**WV WILD
OUTDOORS**

**HUNTING FISHING
CAMPING**

HARD TO FIND AMMO

22LR - 22MAG

243 - 22/250 - 222



Camo Clothing • Tree Stands

Ammunition

Archery Equipment

Bows & Arrows

Rods & Reels

Camping Equipment

Fishing Lures



Mon-Sat 10am to 6pm Sun 1pm to 6pm

Off The Birch River Exit - Rt. 19

Turn Left At Stop Sign Near Go Mart

506 FIREHOUSE ROAD

BIRCH RIVER, WV

304-439-5329

Convenience Store • Movie Rentals
Boat & RV Supplies • Souvenirs
Game Checking Station • Hardware

Lazy Acres Mart

Buckhannon, WV

1/2 Mile from

Audra State Park in WV

304-472-4279 LIVE BAIT

LEESON'S IMPORT MOTORS LLC

SALES • FINANCE • PARTS • SERVICE

www.leesonmotors.com

320 West Main Street

Bridgeport, WV

(304) 842-5469



*New & Used
Motorcycles
ATV & UTV's*



STOP THE STEAL RUGER 10/22

**Guns Arriving Soon
• Call For Availability**

- ONLY 45 NUMBERED RIFLES WILL BE MADE FOR WEST VIRGINIA
- FULLY FUNCTIONAL RUGER 10/22



**CALL 681-298-5070
222 ALLEGHENY HWY. ELKINS, WV**

**OPEN 8AM TO 3PM CLOSED WED. & SUN
WHEELER'S GUNS & AMMO**



Taylor French bagged a huge buck.



Jeff Copen, from Munday, brought in a 10 point buck.



Jack Walker dropped a huge buck this season.



The Bobcat

24' x 16'

384 Square

Features A 24' x 8' Covered Porch

Building Materials Available

MOUNTAIN STATE LOG HOMES, INC.

"Your Path To Affordable Log Home Living"

- **FREE** Unloading At Your Site
- Milled Locally In Jane Lew, WV
- Kiln Dried White Pine Log Choices

Many NEW models to choose from.

MILL DIRECT PRICES!

D-Logs 6" x 6", 6" x 8", 8" x 8"

Log Siding 6", 8", 12"

Douglas Fir Beams

Dove Tail Log 6" x 12"

T/G 1" x 6", 2" x 6"

Cedar Posts & Railing

Two Locations In WV

**208 Display Drive
Jane Lew, WV 26378
304-884-6646**

**521 Hinkle Road
Fayetteville, WV 25840
304-517-9081**



Visit us on the web at www.mountainstateloghomes.com

Or email us at info@mountainstateloghomes.net



*Over 51 Years
In Business*

**STUMPTOWN, WV
US HIGHWAY 33**

**Gas - Tires
Groceries - Hardware**

L	P	W	R	L	L	E	H	S	X	W	B	L	A	S	T	A	M	E	C
A	F	E	O	O	D	R	U	N	K	S	H	Z	E	N	R	O	A	H	O
N	A	I	D	A	U	P	M	A	C	N	A	R	E	R	V	Z	S	L	M
D	Y	M	E	S	P	N	A	R	K	D	M	C	E	N	T	I	T	B	A
I	K	A	O	L	E	E	D	E	E	P	S	O	D	N	I	L	B	L	G
D	Z	C	I	R	O	K	E	C	Y	C	E	N	I	T	R	T	U	I	A
A	F	E	U	L	P	R	K	N	R	E	S	E	A	E	Z	B	R	A	Z
Y	S	B	A	B	L	U	C	A	D	K	M	A	R	K	E	S	C	T	I
S	O	R	G	I	E	T	P	R	S	N	S	E	D	O	E	N	A	E	N
P	O	S	T	E	D	E	R	T	I	D	B	P	N	C	O	V	M	T	E
W	H	R	H	T	I	K	T	L	L	M	O	L	S	K	R	A	P	I	M
Z	U	G	L	Z	N	S	E	A	A	R	D	N	U	E	U	M	I	H	A
S	N	E	A	L	I	V	K	H	G	T	E	K	N	E	O	N	N	W	C
R	T	R	G	R	A	N	C	L	N	L	R	G	S	D	A	N	G	N	N
E	I	J	Z	J	E	V	A	K	O	K	L	E	C	N	E	F	L	E	O
T	N	A	R	D	A	H	R	R	P	U	S	I	P	U	P	T	J	G	L
N	G	R	G	N	O	A	T	Z	L	I	Z	J	H	O	G	O	Y	E	A
U	B	E	F	N	I	N	G	A	O	N	E	A	T	R	R	N	L	L	V
H	L	H	L	M	U	R	M	A	E	R	T	S	W	G	E	E	W	Z	A
Z	S	K	E	F	I	L	D	L	I	W	O	T	E	L	T	S	I	M	Y

WORD SEARCH

Snake • Rifle • Camping • Fence • Men • Hunting • Edge • Parks
 Whitetail • Chamber • Lube • Halt • Blue • Posted • Scrape • Lag
 Blast • Ground • Hill • Buck • Rub • Mast • Scent • Tine • Blind
 Camp • Track • Stream • Stop • Magazine • Hunters • Rope • Hog
 Land • Shell • Round • Supplies • Rodeo • Wildlife • Weather • Oz

Look Up - Down - Across - Diagonally



304-439-5329
RICK'S
TAXIDERMY

*Make Those Outdoor
 Memories Last A Lifetime*
41 Years Experience

Off Hall Rd. On
 Black Ford Road
 Buckhannon, WV



Accepting Major Credit Cards
**Full Time/Award Winning Master
 Taxidermist Rick Dunlap**

www.wvasportsman.net



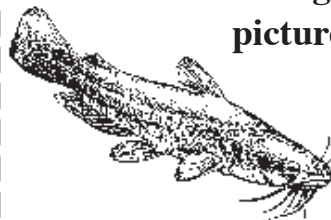
Aaron Frye used a bow in Wyoming County for an awesome buck.

LARGE FISH & GAME PICS WANTED

Clip Out

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Fish _____ Pound _____ Oz _____
 Deer _____ Other _____ #Points _____

We are looking for **LARGE** fish & game pictures from 2020/21.



**NO
 DOES**

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

TEXT 304-482-7217

Photos Will Be Returned

E-mail wvasport@gmail.com




Let Us Put it in for You!

304-744-8300 • 1414 MacCorkle Ave SW • Charleston

We offer boat storage and launching of your boat. Leave your trailer at home.
New and Used Boats Parts and Service



Indoor Storage/Launching



- Authorized Yamaha Dealer
- Parts
- Service



Kanawha River Dock



Sweetwater



**CHAPARRAL
BOATS**



ROBALO



Hurricane



Xpress boats



**VERANDA
LUXURY PONTOONS**



Open:
 Mon-Fri 9-6
 Sat 8-5
 Sun 11-4

Sales • Service • Parts
www.trojanlanding.com
1414 MacCorkle Ave SW
Charleston, WV 304-744-8300



Catch Your Savings At Superior Toyota

T.R. Hathaway says: "Try Berkley Powerbait for more trout"

Superior  **TOYOTA**

Superior

The name says it all!
**SALES, SERVICE,
PARTS**

www.SuperiorAutoWV.com

2021 Toyota Tundra



\$1,000 Customer Cash
OR
2.9% APR up to 60 Months
Excludes TRD Pro

2021 Toyota Tacoma



\$1,000 Customer Cash
OR
1.9% APR up to 60 Months
Excludes TRD Pro

2021 Toyota 4Runner



\$1,000 Customer Cash
OR
2.9% APR up to 60 Months
Excludes TRD Pro



**Rt. 50 EAST
PARKERSBURG
304-424-5122
800-478-5884**

* Customer Bonus Cash provided by manufacturer. Not all customers will qualify for special financing rate. 0% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$16.67 for every \$1,000 financed. 1.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$17.48 for each \$1,000 financed. Plus tax & fees and dealer doc fee \$187.25. Whereas every attempt has been made to ensure accuracy, dealer not responsible for errors. 0.9% for 60 monthly payments of \$17.05 per thousand financed Expires 3-1, 2021.