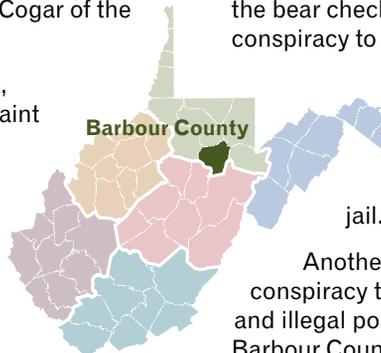


# Three Plead Guilty in Bear Case

Three Barbour County residents have pled guilty to several violations of West Virginia wildlife laws involving the illegal killing of two black bears, according to Lt. Jon Cogar of the DNR Natural Resources Police.

Natural Resources Police Officer Josh Prickett, stationed in Barbour County, received a complaint regarding two dead bears hanging in a tree on Talbott Road near Route 33 in the Belington area. The bears were checked in by two different hunters and the tags showed the bears were taken in the Cheat Mountain area of Randolph County. Officer Prickett contacted the alleged hunters who checked the bears in during the first week of bear season in December.

After interviews, Officer Prickett and Sgt. Bob Waybright were able to prove that all parties involved fabricated their stories of the bear hunt to cover up their illegal activity. Tickets were issued January 24 and 25, 2011.



One man, age 26 of Belington, was charged in Randolph County for exceeding the season limit on bear and violating the bear checking regulations. He was charged with conspiracy to violate Chapter 20 of the West Virginia Code (wildlife laws), withholding information, and illegal possession of wildlife in Barbour County. He entered a guilty plea to the Randolph County charges and was fined a total of \$2,677.60 and sentenced to 30 days in jail. The Barbour County charges are still pending.

Another man, age 36 of Belington, was charged with conspiracy to violate Chapter 20, withholding information and illegal possession of wildlife. These charges were filed in Barbour County. This man entered a guilty plea and was fined a total of \$542.40.

A woman, age 40 of Belington, was charged with conspiracy to violate Chapter 20 and withholding information. These charges were filed in Barbour County. She entered a guilty plea and was fined a total of \$361.60.

## Governor's One Shot Sets Record Donations

Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin announced that the Governor's One Shot Whitetail Deer Hunt raised a record \$75,000 in donations for the Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) program at a check presentation at the Capitol on March 2. The event, held Dec. 5 and 6, 2010, at Stonewall Jackson Resort State Park in Lewis County, has been held the past four years to raise money for HHH, which is administered by the DNR Wildlife Resources Section.

"I want to thank all those who participated, from the hunters to the business sponsors, because they put food on the table for many West Virginia families," Tomblin said. "While I look forward to this fall's hunt, I'd like to encourage West Virginians to make year round donations to our food pantries."

Private individuals and businesses donate money for the opportunity to participate in guided antlerless deer hunts on private property near Stonewall Jackson Resort State Park. The event ends with an auction and an awards banquet. All venison from the hunt, along with profits from the sponsorships, goes to HHH. The first event, held in 2007, raised \$17,000, the second in 2008 raised \$35,000, and the third in 2009 raised \$50,000.



Gov. Tomblin and DNR Director Frank Jezioro also commended the landowners who allowed the participants to hunt on their property, providing not only a place to hunt, but also an opportunity to remove antlerless deer from overpopulated areas. Special thanks went to the many guides, who gave their time to help the participants find the deer and assist with the harvest.

More information about the HHH program can be found at [www.wvdnr.gov/Hunting/HHH.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/Hunting/HHH.shtm) or by calling 304-558-2771.

[www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov)

## Calendar of Events

### APRIL

- 16, **Spring Bird Walks**
- 23, **Prickett's Fort State Park**
- 30 Join DNR biologists on an easy, hike at 8 a.m. to look for local birds and watch bird banders in action. Call Sue Olcott at 304-825-6787 for more information.

**15-17 Becoming an Outdoorswoman (BOW) Spring Workshop**  
**North Bend State Park**  
 The WV Becoming an Outdoors-Woman (BOW) program encourages women to participate in outdoor activities. The BOW program is looking for women who are at least 18 years old and are interested in improving on an existing skill, learning a new skill, and/or are looking for the camaraderie of like-minded individuals. Classes include: hiking, biking, camping, shooting, fishing, and outdoor cooking. For more information, call Billie Shearer at 304-558-2771.

### MAY

- 6-8 **Birding and Banding Weekend**  
**Tygart Lake State Park**  
 A weekend of activities focused on bird watching and banding birds. Come for a day or spend the weekend at the special "birder rate" for lodging. Contact: 304-265-6144.
- 7 **40th Annual Spring Bird Count**  
**Pipestem Resort State Park**  
 Join the search for 100 species of birds in one day. For more information, call 304-466-1800.
- 14 **Migration Celebration**  
**Little Beaver State Park**  
 Join Three Rivers Avian Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for various activities and displays related to migratory birds. Free event. Contact: 304-466-4683.

**28-30 Birds and Blooms Weekend**  
**Cacapon Resort State Park**  
 Beginner bird and wildflower identification. Package includes lodging, some meals, and activities. For more information, call 304-258-1022.

### JUNE

**3-5 Canaan Valley Birding Festival**  
**Canaan Valley Resort State Park**  
 Enjoy daily walks, workshops and guest speakers. Day guests welcome. Lodging package offered. Contact: 304-866-4121 X2788.

**4 Kids Fishing Derby**  
**Little Beaver State Park**  
 Begins at 9 a.m. Kids receive lunch, t-shirts and prizes. Call 304-763-2494 for more information.

**11-12 Free Fishing Days**  
**Statewide**  
 Fish without a license! Great time to try fishing for the first time or to renew an old pastime.

**11 Kids Fishing Derby**  
**Bowden Fish Hatchery**  
 Free fishing for kids; casting contest; catch-and-release pond and catch-and-keep pond. Call 304-637-0245 for more information.

**11 Kids Fishing Derby**  
**Tygart Lake State Park**  
 Free fishing for kids in cooperation with Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs program. Call 304-265-6144.

**18 Bird Walk and Raptor Presentation**  
**Tygart Lake State Park**  
 Join experts for birdwatching hike. Listen to a presentation with live birds from Three Rivers Avian Center. Call 304-265-6144.

[www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov)

# Oldham Receives IWLA Award

Tom Oldham, a DNR fisheries biologist, was honored by the Izaak Walton League of America with its prestigious Honor Roll Award at its national convention. Tom has worked with the Coldwater Fisheries Section of the DNR Wildlife Resources Section in Elkins for the past 35 years.



**OLDHAM**

Tom is one of the original volunteers who formed the Randolph County "Hooked On Fishing, Not On Drugs" committee, and has worked on this committee for 17 years. During that time, the event evolved from a small collaboration to become a regular event supported by the entire community. Over a two-day period, more than 2,500 children and their families participate in activities designed to educate kids about the harmful effects of drugs and to encourage them to get outside and enjoy the state's natural resources.

Oldham has also coordinated the Bowden Fishing Derby since its inception 20 years ago. He organizes the event, arranges for volunteers, and oversees all aspects of the derby. The derby is free to children ages 3 to 14. An average of 700 youth plus their families attend each year at the Bowden State Trout Hatchery. Several ponds stocked for the event allow anglers to use bait and take home two trout; and another pond is set up as catch-and-release for more experienced anglers. Oldham is a past president of the WV Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. He previously received the Professional Award of the West Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League.

## WVDNR 2011 Mid-Winter Waterfowl Survey

AREA	2011		2010		2009		2008		2007	
	Ducks	Geese								
Kanawha River (Upper)	121	673	160	465	253	326	299	683	207	693
Kanawha River (Lower)	102	182	66	483	123	304	74	151	250	176
Ohio River (Lower)	1,195	764	849	1,321	290	501	318	824	1,007	1,611
Ohio River (Middle)	2,712	3,536	1,424	4,915	975	1,365	808	1,514	446	1,791
Tygart Lake Pleasant Creek	82	15	212	170	72	128	37	70	44	58
Shenandoah River	136	588	18	154	102	422	68	180	66	1,150
Bluestone Lake/New River	696	389	139	281	218	229	110	44	180	93
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,044</b>	<b>6,147</b>	<b>2,868</b>	<b>7,789</b>	<b>2,033</b>	<b>3,275</b>	<b>1,714</b>	<b>3,466</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>5,572</b>
<b>10-Year Average</b>	<b>3,333</b>	<b>4,729</b>	<b>4,805</b>	<b>5,154</b>	<b>5,012</b>	<b>4,764</b>	<b>5,505</b>	<b>4,881</b>	<b>5,768</b>	<b>4,980</b>

## Duck Numbers Show Significant Increase

Wildlife biologists counted 5,044 ducks and 6,147 Canada geese during the annual mid-winter waterfowl survey in early January, according to Steve Wilson, Waterfowl Biologist for the DNR Wildlife Resources Section.

"The number of ducks counted increased significantly compared to last year while the number of Canada geese decreased slightly," Wilson said. "Despite the decrease in Canada geese from last year, their numbers are still 30 percent above the 10-year average, and duck numbers are 51 percent above average," Wilson noted. The increase was not unexpected due to the amount

of snow and cold weather that occurred in December.

Canada geese, mallards and black ducks, as usual, were the most commonly observed species in the 2011 survey. Other waterfowl observed include: canvasback, scaup, ring-necked duck, redhead, bufflehead, wood duck, mergansers and snow geese. Biologists also observed 13 bald eagles, two golden eagles and 11 unidentified eagles.

The survey was conducted January 5-7, 2011, and included portions of the Kanawha, Ohio, Shenandoah and New rivers, as well as Tygart and Bluestone lakes.



Maslowski photo / USFWS

*Black ducks, above, along with Canada geese and mallards were again the most commonly observed species in the annual DNR survey.*

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