

## Annual WV Vandalia Gathering Set for May 23-25

Contributed by Ginny Painter of the Division of Culture and History; photographs by Mike Keller.

On Memorial Day weekend (May 23-25), the Cultural Center and State Capitol grounds will come alive for the 27th Vandalia Gathering – the State’s annual celebration of the traditional arts, music, dance, stories, crafts, and food of West Virginia. The free festival’s unique blend of ethnic and cultural heritage combines an atmosphere as comfortable as a family reunion with the excitement of a state fair

The Vandalia Gathering creates new memories each year for the thousands of visitors who flock from across the Mountain State and around the country to celebrate traditions passed from generation to generation. The festival pays tribute to West Virginia’s mountain culture and ethnic heritage by showcasing a variety of craftspeople and performers.

For those who love the sounds of traditional music or would like to be introduced to it, Vandalia Gathering can fit the bill. Concerts and contests fill the weekend, and impromptu jam sessions spring up all over the grounds. At any moment, a shade tree becomes the site of a lively performance as strolling musicians stop to join in on a favorite old tune.

During the festival, West Virginia craftspeople will be demonstrating and selling their creations. Potters, quilters, woodworkers, and a host of other gifted artisans round out the

Craft Circle. Salsa, jelly, salad dressings, gourmet coffee and tea, and a variety of other food products also will be available.

Vandalia food booths will feature a unique sampling of traditional and ethnic foods, including such favorites as hot dogs, roasted corn, ham-

Gathering T-shirts, cups, seat cushions, pins, and other souvenirs, as well as compact discs and cassettes from West Virginia’s finest traditional musicians.

The 2003 Vandalia Gathering gets underway at 7 P.M. on Friday, May 23 in the Cultural Center Theater with the Vandalia Sampler Concert featuring some of the festival’s favorite performers. Activities on Saturday and Sunday include old-time fiddle, banjo, and lap dulcimer competitions, as well as the ever-popular Liars Contest (honest!). A second contest stage includes competitions in flat pick guitar, mandolin, and bluegrass banjo. Traditional dance offerings range from demonstrations of ethnic and square dancing in the Cultural Center’s Great Hall to an outdoor flat foot dancing stage where spectators are encouraged to jump in and kick up their heels. The Old-Time for Young-Uns area on Saturday and Sunday features old-fashioned hands-on fun and

games for all ages. The festival wraps up Sunday with an awards ceremony and concert in the Theater beginning at 5 P.M.

The Vandalia Gathering is a program of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. For more information or a complete schedule of events, visit [www.wvculture.org](http://www.wvculture.org) or call 304/558-0162.



burgers, funnel cakes, rib sandwiches, Greek and Italian specialties, and German sausages. The festival sales tent will offer Vandalia

**Vandalia Gathering  
contests are open to  
West Virginia  
residents only**

# Lottery Gives Phone Cards to Deployed Military

Contributed by the West Virginia Lottery.

Members of West Virginia's National Guard awaiting deployment at bases throughout the United States were able to call home free thanks to the West Virginia Lottery.

On April 2, Lottery Director John Musgrave sent 1,000 20-minute calling cards for domestic use to National Guard officials for distribution. Alvin Rose, Deputy Director

of Video Lottery Security, who is also a Lt. Colonel in the West Virginia National Guard, delivered the cards.

"The comfort for a soldier hearing a familiar voice on the other end of a line during troubled times such as these cannot be measured in dollars and cents. To be able to extend that sense of well-being, while at the same time removing soldiers' concerns for the cost of the calls, was important to us," said Musgrave.

The free long distance cards had been used for Lottery promotions. The donated cards represent the remainder of the Lottery's inventory that is due to expire May 31, 2003.





**Hawks  
NEST  
STATE PARK**  
www.hawksnestsp.com



2003  
Stateline

One Time Free Pass for 2003 Tram

with purchase of lunch (minimum \$5 per person). One ticket per person. Ticket must be signed by your server and presented to Tram Clerk. Jetboat rides available at additional cost.

Server: \_\_\_\_\_
Date: \_\_\_\_\_
Tram Clerk Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Quick Copy Coupon  
Deadline Extended

Due to tremendous response from the coupon in last month's *Stateline*, the Quick Copy Center is extending the deadline to May 31, 2003. You can print a coupon at [www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/Stline/Mar03-02.pdf](http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/empcom/Stline/Mar03-02.pdf)

## DOP and CPRB Offer Heading into Retirement Programs

The Division of Personnel, in conjunction with the Consolidated Public Retirement Board (CPRB), is offering a program to State employees who are considering retirement. This program, designed primarily for those age 50 or older, provides information on topics such as CPRB eligibility, Social Security, and health insurance. Dates are:

- Moundsville ----- May 14, 2003
- Martinsburg ----- June 10, 2003
- Charleston ----- September 24, 2003
- Beckley ----- October 8, 2003
- Davis ----- October 29, 2003

Interested? Registration details are available online at [www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/classes](http://www.state.wv.us/admin/personnel/classes).

**NOTE FROM CPRB:** Six months prior to retiring, contact CPRB to get an estimate of your benefits and to prepare the necessary paperwork. Call them at 558-3570 or 1-800-654-4406.

WEST VIRGINIA EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATION NETWORK (WVECN)

*Last month, we told you about the WVECN, a State-sponsored program to take your recommendations and suggestions on how government can operate more efficiently. Cut out the card below and add it to your rolodex so it's at your fingertips when that cost-saving idea pops up!*



West Virginia Employee Communication Network

WVECN

PHONE  
558-5321

TOLL-FREE  
1-866-558-4YOU  
(4968)

FAX: 304-558-4466

E-MAIL: [wvecn@wvgov.org](mailto:wvecn@wvgov.org)

ADDRESS: 2019 Washington St., E., Chas., WV 25305

ONLINE FORM: [www.wvgov.org/wvecn/budgetform.cfm](http://www.wvgov.org/wvecn/budgetform.cfm)



# New West Virginia Wildlife Magazine Available Free!

Contributed by Art Shomo of the Division of Natural Resources.

*West Virginia Wildlife* is a new, quarterly magazine published by the Division of Natural Resources (DNR) that will capture the attention of all outdoor enthusiasts. It contains beautiful full-color photographs and articles for all ages covering everything from hunting and fishing opportunities to animal life histories and DNR resource management programs.

The recent spring issue included articles on the State Wildlife Center, colorful fish that inhabit our streams, fish research projects, sur-

veys of freshwater mussels, and what to do if you find a baby bird out of its nest. The magazine contains four departments that have a common theme from issue to issue. *Wild Perspectives* is an editorial, often on State wildlife issues. *The Wildlife Diversity Notebook* offers an in-depth look at an animal species. *Wild Almanac* includes a calendar of wildlife-related DNR events and short news stories. *A Sense of Wonder* offers an educational page for children and adults, including an activity with which they can discover the wonders of the natural world together.

You can have the magazine delivered to your home or office. If you're interested in obtaining a free subscription, please write to:

<p>WV Wildlife Magazine Elkins Operations Center Post Office Box 67 Elkins, West Virginia 26241</p>	<p>You can also subscribe online at: <a href="http://lutra.dnr.state.wv.us/wwwildlife/subscribe.htm">lutra.dnr.state.wv.us/ wwwildlife/subscribe.htm</a></p>
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## Watch Out for the Deer, Dear

*How Many Dang Deer Did I See on the Way to Work* is an amusing yet factual game often run by popular Charleston radio personality Steve Bishop (V-100 Radio). Bishop lives in a rural area of West Virginia and drives to work at 4:45 A.M. – a time when deer, who are nocturnal (night) creatures by nature, are commonly out and about.

The sight of deer grazing in a field has long brought about oohs and ahhs, especially when a fawn or two are present, but when they make their way to the highway, it can end up in disaster and/or tragedy.

An article published in *The Herald Dispatch* (Huntington, WV) on November 25, 2001 informed readers that in Ohio, the number of deer-related crashes had risen 30% over the previous 10 years. According to the article, that averages out to 71 deer-car accidents per day. The average vehicle repair cost falls in the \$1,200-1,500 range, and in December, 2002, the Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Company estimated that it would pay out over \$9 million in claims for these types of accidents in 2003.

Ray Lewis of the West Virginia Division of Highways' (DOH) Traffic Engineering Division estimates that 30,000+ accidents are caused annually in West Virginia by deer.

According to Lewis, "Many deer-car accidents aren't reported, so it's tough to quote an exact number."

His estimate is supported by Jim Rinehart of DOH's Maintenance Division, who reports that nearly 19,000 deer were removed from West Virginia roadways by the DOH in 2002, with over 7,200 in the months of October, November, and December. That number,



Young fawns may seem like they are abandoned, but a parent is often very close by.

Young mammals, especially fawns, should also be left alone. The spotted coloration on a fawn creates the perfect camouflage when hiding in tall grass away from its mother. It can lay so

motionless that one could almost step right next to it without knowing it. If one is encountered, leave it alone. The doe is nearby, probably watching, and will quickly return once you leave.

*The above picture and caption are taken from the Spring 2003 issue of West Virginia Wildlife magazine, the subject in the article at the top of this page.*

along with estimates of accidents that went unreported or where the animal itself wasn't actually hit by the vehicle could easily add up to 30,000+.

While deer-car crashes happen most frequently in the fall (mating season), the spring months of March, April, and May have their fair share because does and young deer migrate during this time. Research shows that prime






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accident times are in the mornings and evenings, but a study by researchers in Finland a few years ago determined that the peak hazardous time of day is twilight – the time just after sunset. The study found that at twilight, deer activity increases, and that, coupled with decreased visibility and high traffic volume, makes for the highest possibility of a deer-car crash.

### REDUCE YOUR RISK

To reduce your chances of being involved in a deer-related accident, follow these tips:

-  Be more alert, especially during spring and fall, at night, and in deer crossings.
-  Slow down after sunset when visibility is less and deer activity is higher.
-  Use reflectors on your vehicle.
-  If you pass deer on or near the road, flash your lights at other drivers to warn them of possible danger ahead.
-  **BE AWARE THAT DEER RARELY TRAVEL ALONE.** Often it's not the deer you see, but the two or three behind it that cause crashes.

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT A DEER

-  Immediately turn on your flashers.
-  Call the police or have someone call them for you.
-  If you are injured, remain in your car until emergency workers arrive.
-  If possible, move your vehicle off the road and if you can safely do so, inspect your car for damage. If not, remain in the car until help arrives.
-  **STAY AWAY FROM THE DEER!** An injured deer is very dangerous and unpredictable, and sometimes, an animal that appears dead is actually only stunned or in shock. An injured deer can kick or attack a well-meaning human.
-  Get a copy of the police report and notify your insurance company as soon as possible.

Even exercising great care can't completely eliminate the risk of hitting a deer. Bishop is always as alert and careful as he can be, yet he says with regret, "I've hit five ... so far."

## Pencil In ...



# PEIA NEWS



# PEIA

The Public Employees Insurance Agency has once again partnered with the Charleston Family YMCA to offer a **waiver of the joiner's fee and first month's dues** for any member who joins "The Y" by May 15. Already a member? Current members can receive \$10 off any physical activity program. You must show your PEIA or Carelink insurance card to verify your participation in one of those programs to receive either discount. For more details, call Nidia Henderson at 558-7850, ext. 239.

PEIA recently notified members that **certain antihistamines were moved to non-prescription or non-preferred status.** These include Claritin, Zyrtec, Allegra, and others. They also provided **discount coupons for Alavert**, which contains the same medicine found in Claritin. Access coupons at [www.alavert.com](http://www.alavert.com).

## 12th Annual Public Employees Golf Tournament

Monday  
June 9, 2003

FOR  
ENTRY FORM  
OR INFO,  
CONTACT:  
Ken Caplinger  
558-2764




**HOW ABOUT A PRACTICE ROUND ON SUNDAY, JUNE 8?**  
Greens Fee & Cart: \$22.50 – Tee Times start at 1 P.M. – 1-800-CALL-WVA

Shotgun Start – 10 A.M.  
Entry Fee, Greens Fee & Cart: \$40  
Deadline: May 30, 2003 – First 140 Golfers  
Discount Lodging: \$54 (Double Occupancy)

### Pipestem Resort State Park

PRIZES ● PRIZES ● PRIZES

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Low Gross - Men's  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Low Gross - Women's  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Low Gross - Net  
Scores (Callaway System)  
Closest to Pin and Long Drive Contest  
Door Prizes

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