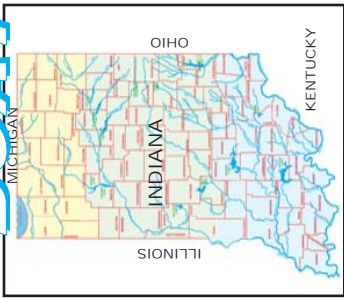


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THE GAD-A-BOUT™

IN THIS ISSUE

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THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: A big yaller morel found by Don Bickel. What better way of starting out the New Year then with pictures of spring time morel. See more on page 21. (Photo by Don Bickel)

Top Center: Jessica Brown caught this 1 lb. 5/16 oz. bluegill in a private pond while she was on vacation in Indiana. (Poor Boys Country Store Photo, Eckerty, IN)

Top Right: Steve Wicker, owner of Rem-Bu Gun

& Archery Shop in Connersville, IN took this 14 point buck on 11-24-09 with a gun. Official Boone & Crockett Green Score 176 7/8. Steve has owned Rem-Bu for 39 years. (Photo by Brian Wicker)

Bottom Left: The author knocked this gobbler down from 52 yards away with a newer Remington 870 designed specifically for turkey hunters. This is proof positive that you don't need a long barrel to gain distance anymore. (Photo by Joe Martino)

Bottom Right: Golden Eagle, here trading goods with fellow re-enactor the late Roger Endress at Frontier Days Rendezvous which took place at Treaty Line Pioneer Village 1991 - 2001. See Golden Eagle's regular column on Page 5 and also some pictures of Henry M. Stock III, Hank Stock and Golden Eagle. (Photos by Ray Dickerson)



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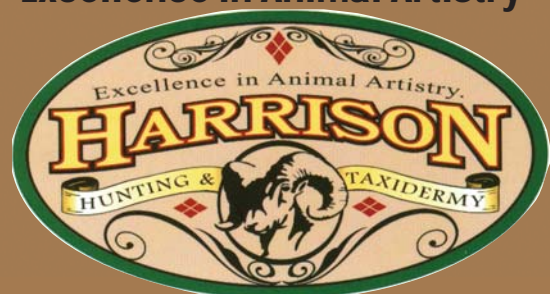

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

HERE WE ARE IN 2010

It's hard to believe that we have entered the year 2010, what happened to 2009. The past few weeks have flew by for this ole' Gad-a-bout. Already though I hear more encouraging talk about planning for the coming year, how it is going to be much better than last year. The mood of this country is set by the powers to be. We were doing fine in 2007 until we entered the all powerful election era, then things went to h--- in a hand basket. Things worsened as we elected a new president and haven't gotten much better in the interim. The national press panders to gloom and doom more than cheerful and uplifting news broadcasting for their purpose, that only they know the reason behind it. The ever present cable news networks make up their news as they go along just to fill air time. They can sign off permanently as far as I am concerned. With the fiasco they created during the election era I turned them off permanently on my TV's. In my office here I have a TV to watch movies on, it isn't connected to an antenna nor a cable. I know it's un-American to not watch programmed television, but that's the way it is, good-night!

REQUEST FOR GAD'S CORNER!!

I have a request for those of you who are sending photos to be published in my Gad's Corner. Please send your phone number or an e-mail address along with the photo and pertinent information for the photo. Many times I have questions about the photo or information you sent, but can't do anything about it since I don't have anyway of contacting you, except by snail mail. Since the demand now for getting your photo in Gad's Corner is far greater than ever before, if I don't have enough information or have a problem with a photo I am just going to leave them out. If you send a [Self Addressed Stamped Envelope \(SASE\)](#) along with the photo I can return the photo back to you, if not I put it in a box and eventually throw it away.

One last item of note, I have been getting more photos than I have space for them. Be patient if you don't see your photo in the very next issue, I put them in as I receive them. For the January issue I had 46 game photos and only 26 spots in the paper. This issue I increased the available spots to 36 and I got most of the ones I received in this issue. If you don't see it I may have had a problem with the information or photo.

CRAPPIE U.S.A.

Crappie U.S.A. will be holding a Crappie Tournament in the Wabash Valley Lakes in northcentral Indiana on May 15, 2010. You will be able to fish in all three lakes, Mississinewa, Salamones and Huntington.

Mail in Deadline for entering the tournament is April 30, 2010. Starting time is 6:30 a.m., stop time is 3:00 p.m. and weigh-in time is 4:00 p.m. (anyone not in line by this time will be disqualified from the tournament)

Register for This Tournament Online at Crappieusa.com

For more information contact:

Darrell Van Vector

President
125 Ruth Ave
Benton, KY 42025
Phone: (270) 395-4204
dvanvector@crappieusa.com

or
Larry Crecelius

in Salem, Indiana at 812-525-2707 or lcrecel@blueriver.net

INDIANAPOLIS SPORT SHOW

The Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel show will be held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds February 19th thru 28th, 2010. I will be in Tackle Town again, Booth #436. I believe that is where I was two years ago. See pages 24, 25 and 32 for more information on this show.

CANOEFEST 2010 BROOKVILLE, IN

Indiana's largest canoe race. Will be held on July 2 & 3, kicking off a BIG 3-day holiday weekend! Festival Friday and Saturday night. Races Saturday July 3 morning. Big fireworks show Saturday night!

Jim Surhe, CanoeFest coordinator told me by phone that most everything will be the same as 2009 with some changes. The planning for this years event, which will most likely be the biggest and best to date, is still an ongoing process.

Check their website, CANOEFEST.ORG to keep abreast of all the exciting updates and check out all the information that is provided if you haven't been to CanoeFest before. It is fun for the entire family. Mark down July 2-3 to be in Brookville, Indiana for this huge and fun-filled event.

For more information contact the following:

CanoeFest Executive Director

Jim Suhre, 765-647-0968, jsuhre@fcnbank.com

Race Directors

Kelly Leffingwell 765-647-3691 or
Carroll Lanning 765-647-6765

Festival Director

Dave Cook, 765-647-4611, dhcook@cnz.com

INDIANA STATE TROOPERS RECEIVE AWARDS



Trooper Barry Bischoff

Connersville Trooper Receives Safe Driving Award

Connersville – Trooper Barry Bischoff was recently honored for accumulating 150,000 safe driving miles. Bischoff, a six year member of the Indiana State Police, graduated from the State Police Academy in 2003 and was originally assigned to the Versailles Post.

He transferred to the Connersville Post where he became the District's first K-9 unit in December 2007. Bischoff, a Franklin County native, lives and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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Talking Leaves



by Golden Eagle

"Life is Love .. Enjoy it!"

A friend of mine, Sacred Winds, wrote this four or five years ago based on a vision he had. It still holds a strong message today...

"In a time of stillness of this time of the year, an elder of many years was walking. Snow was lightly coming down with a gentle wind. The elder blinked his eyes for he thought he saw something in his path. The closer he came to it and it did not move only to turn its head to the elder. When the elder came up to it very carefully, and to his great surprise and to his very delight, something he had never seen before, only had heard legends of. There stood the magnificent ****White Buffalo****. "Come closer, come closer. Put your hand under my right eye." And so the old elder put his hand under the right. A tear fell into his hand. Just one, and it was like a little crystal ball. As the old elder was looking at the tear, the ****Sacred Buffalo**** said, "Take the tear to your lodge and there you shall learn of the tear". As the old elder looked up, the ****Sacred One****, the ****White Buffalo**** was gone. So he took the long journey to his lodge. He then placed the tear on the table near the fire. As he sat there the moonlight came through and across the table, and that very moment the tear turned into a piece of white leather with written words. "Peace to all hearts of this season and all seasons of life"

On many calendars, February is listed as the month of "Love". I have a sheet of stickers from St. Joseph Indian School in South Dakota, one of

SEE PAGE 30
 THE FACES OF HANK!

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them reads "Life is Love..Enjoy It." In recent times "love" has lost it's true meaning. It's easy for a guy to say "I Love You" when he wants a girl to go all the way. Women have always placed more meaning on that little four letter word than men.

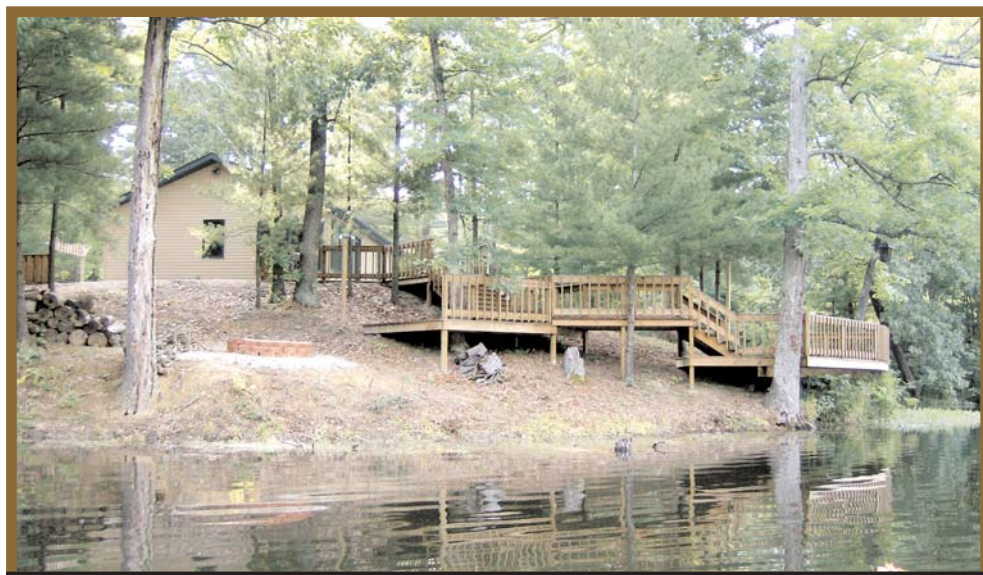
In our family "love" is still used to show real affection for members of our combined families. Although I have no doubt that my parents loved each other, they died within a year of each other, only rarely did I see them openly show affection for each other. We were not a "hugging family". Blue sky Woman's family are very open about their feelings. It took me awhile to feel comfortable with all the hugging. Now I don't think I could do without it. Although I'm still uncomfortable with open shows of affection outside the family.

Thanks to St. Valentines Day the heart has become the symbol of love. Since our heart is the most important part of our body, next to our brain, it has also become the symbol of good health. Last year just after my wife started her journey to the Spirit Land, our daughter, Dancing Woman, gave me a "Snoopy" with a heart and a gold key, for Valentine's Day. He now resides with the rest of my menagerie of stuffed animals, a constant reminder of her love for me. My youngest daughter, Cloud Woman, and her four daughters are constant reminders to me of their love and respect for me. I try to return all of this warmth in any way that I can.

May the Great Spirit grant you this same love from your family in the coming year.

OLD CHIEF SAYS:

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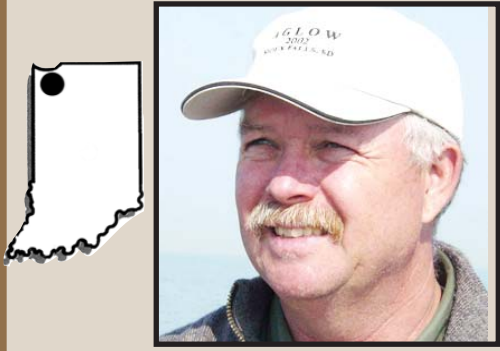
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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

LAST CHANCE FOR CHUKARS

What do Great Lake fishermen do in the winter when it's too cold to fish and too snowy to launch our boats? Many of us trade fishing rods for shotguns! About a year ago I hopped in my truck and made a couple hour drive to a friend's house near Rushville and then we headed out for an afternoon of chukar hunting. I'm sure some of you have never heard of chukars and others, who have, realize there aren't any populations of wild chukars within a two hour drive of my Northwest Indiana home.

Chukars are native to Turkey, the Mediterranean islands, Iran and east through Russia and China and south into Pakistan and Nepal. The Chukar has also been successfully introduced into western North America, the Hawaiian Islands, England and New Zealand. Chukars are a hardy breed of bird, living in mountainous areas more than in agricultural or civilized sections. Wild populations in North America are doing very well and they are popular with hunters in the west.

Bill, Bill's son Will and I waded into the thick cover in the field we picked to hunt. Bill's setter, Ike, got birdy almost immediately but we didn't put up the bird as we followed the dog and kicked likely looking clumps of vegetation where the bird might have been hiding. The dog would move, we'd move, the dog would move, we'd move. Finally, a pheasant erupted from a sorghum strip just ahead of Will.

Pheasants were fair game, as well, but this one was too much of a game for Will. He fired a pair of shots at the departing bird but the gunfire only hastened its escape. Minutes later, Ike began to show renewed interest as his strong nose detected bird scent. This time there wasn't any cat and mouse game. We waded in to where Ike's point showed the bird to be hiding and the first chukar of the day took flight. Will fired another pair of shots to no avail,



Chukars at a shooting preserve near you offers opportunities right on through the winter. (Photo by Mike Schoonveld)

but then the chukar crossed into my shooting area and was still in easy range of my 20 gauge.

Down it came and Ike made a good retrieve on the bird. I'd never shot a chukar before so I took a few seconds to study and admire the sturdy bird before sacking it in the back of my coat.

Chukars are a brownish gray color—about the same color as a mourning dove—but much larger. Not quite so large as a hen pheasant, much larger than a quail. Both sexes are marked the same with a black band from the eyes, down to below the neck, white or at least whitish cheeks and throat and several black and gold bars on the flanks. It appears the males are slightly larger and both sexes share the bright red bill and legs.

Obviously, we weren't after truly "wild" chukars; instead, we were hunting at Flatrock Shooting Preserve just east of Indianapolis in Rush County. Most upland hunters in the state hung up their guns when pheasant and quail season ended back in December. A few headed out of state where—depending on the state and the bird being hunted—seasons might last a bit longer into the winter. In Indiana, however, shooting preserves offer a late season choice for stocked birds for those unwilling to call it quits and wait for next year.

A full listing of Indiana shooting preserves can be obtained in the book: Blacks Wing and Clay (800-848-6247). You probably won't have to drive 2 hours to get to one near you. The shooting preserve

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



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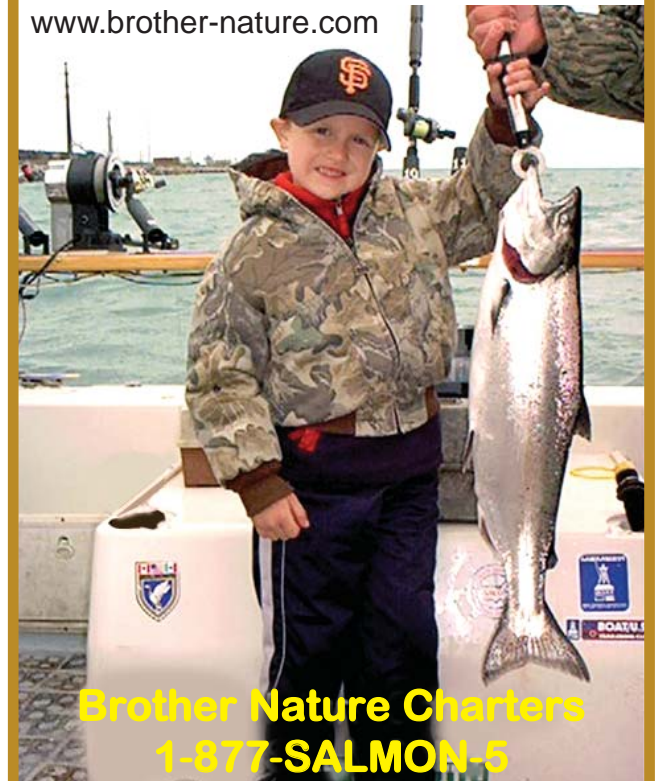
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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe
 Professional Fishing Guide

Brookville Lake

Brookville Lake is located in the south east part of Indiana in Franklin county, about 1 hour and 15 minutes from Indianapolis or about 45 minutes from Cincinnati Ohio just north of the town of Brookville. The best way to get here from Indianapolis or Cincinnati is take Interstate 74 to state road 1 to U.S. 52 from there go through Brookville and then get on state road 101, the Lake will be on your left.

The lake was developed in the late 60's early 70's for flood control by damming up the East Fork of the Whitewater river. Brookville lake is a cooperative management effort between the corps of engineers and the Indiana department of natural resources. The lake itself has a 10.5 mile winter pool, a 15 mile seasonal pool and a flood control length of 20.8 miles and 1 mile wide at its widest point. With the deepest part of the lake being 125 feet deep, its a unique lake for this part of the world.

The stocking program consists of walleye striped bass and musky. The lake is also full of smallmouth and largemouth bass along with white bass, rock bass, crappie, bluegill, ring perch, redear, carp and catfish. The walleye are stocked in the spring as fry at the rate of two thousand walleye fry per acre per year. The striped bass are stocked every year as fingerlings 52,000 annually. And the musky are stocked on a surplus stocking program.

To catch fish on Brookville lake you have to know where the fish are within the lake at the time of the year you are there. For example a musky is known as the fish of 10 thousand casts. But if you are fishing in the early spring or fall in the right places they could be called the fish of 2 thousand casts.

To really know fish you have to watch the cycle of their life throughout the seasons, watch the food they're feeding on throughout the cycle and how they co exist with each other throughout the whole year.

Over the years I've kept diaries on daily fishing trying to figure it all out. But mother nature is constantly throwing you curve balls.

Typically fishing starts to pick up in the very early spring when the water warms up enough to melt the surface ice. What your looking for is the warmest water in the lake. Try to look for shallow places that the sun is exposed to all day or areas of the lake where feeder creeks like Templeton creek, Wolf creek or the river at the north end of the lake. All the fish winter-out in the deepest part of the lake,



Travis Watts with a Brookville walleye. (Photo by Tag Nobbe)

but as soon as the lake starts to warm up the cycle of life starts all over again. For some fish, like the walleye, the first thing they do when they come up out of the deep water of winter is to look for a place to spawn. All the fish are going to spawn in the lake, but at different times, in the spring and at different depths. The walleye is probably the first.

So to catch pre-spawn walleye you need to be fishing in March just as soon as the ice comes off the lake. Shallow rocky areas or places with current are two good places to start.

For the rest of the fish population May is the magic month for spawning. At this time of year all the fish in the lake will be spawning or trying to eat spawning fish eggs. Now it could be on muddy banks, rocky banks, around wood or rocky points. But one thing is for sure, in May fish will be on the banks. The trick is to find the right banks. I suppose that is why its called fishing and not catching.

If you're a trout fishermen the river that comes out from under the lake is full of rainbow and brown trout. The rainbow trout are considered a meat fish, catch 'em, take them home and eat them. The brown trout on the other hand is considered a trophy fish, catch 'em, take a quick picture and turn them loose. These fish can be caught using a fly rod or small spinning tackle, just fishing from the shore. Just remember opening day to keep trout is the last Saturday of April at 6:00 am. If trout fishing isn't you're game then try canoeing. The river from Brookville to Cedar Grove is full of smallmouth bass, white bass, and sauger.

Good Luck Tag Nobbe

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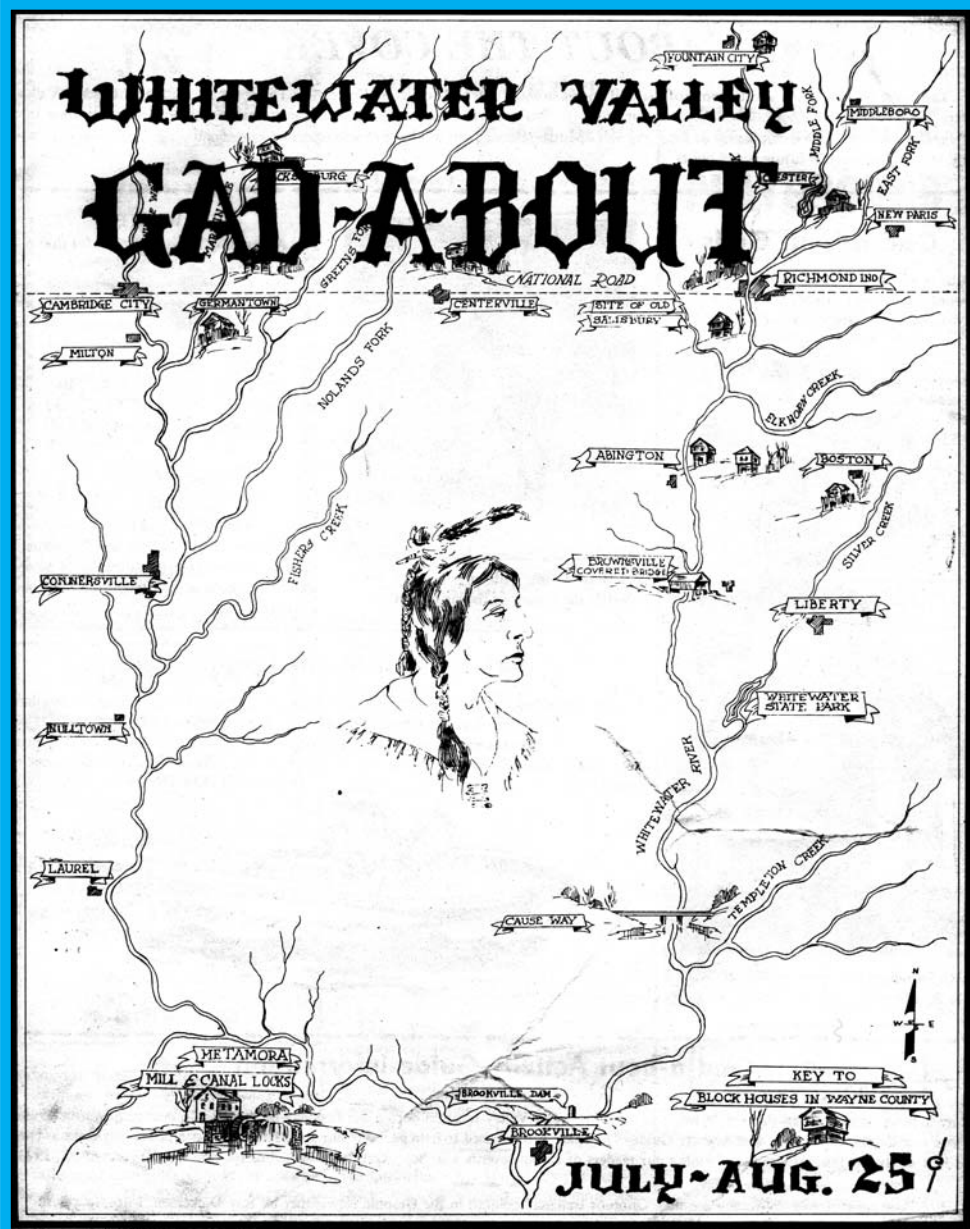
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The East and West Forks of the Whitewater River is shown here in a drawing by Wayne County artist Paul Hamilton, drawn for my first issue of the Whitewater Valley Gad-a-bout in July of 1973.

Story of Brookville Lake Why Build The Brookville Dam?

Part II of a Series

by Ray Dickerson

Last month I told the building of the Brookville Dam. This month I want to give the reasons behind the building the dam that holds back the East Fork of the Whitewater River.

The story of the Whitewater Valleys' floods were recorded in earnest beginning in 1836. That was the year they began building the Whitewater Canal from Lawrenceburg to Hagerstown, Indiana.

The Whitewater rivers, the East Fork (which is made of the West, Middle and East forks that merge in Richmond, Indiana) and the West Fork join just south of Brookville forming the Whitewater River which continues on to Lawrenceburg, Indiana where it empties into the Great Ohio River. The East Fork falls 591 feet from Bethel, Indiana (highest point in Indiana) to Brookville, Indiana where it joins the West Fork, from that point the Whitewater River drops a mere 187 feet until it gets to Lawrenceburg, Indiana. The West Fork drops 374 feet from Hagerstown, Indiana to Brookville, Indiana.

Connersville Watchman," reported that the corps of engineers were surveying a route for a contemplated canal down the West Fork of the Whitewater Valley to the Ohio River.

A report made by J.L. Williams and Wm. Gooding, December 23, 1834 stated that the Whitewater Valley was favorable for the construction of a canal and the principal cost would be the construction of 56 locks and 7 feeder dams needed between Lawrenceburg and Hagerstown at the mouth of Nettle Creek.

In 1836 the Indiana State Legislature approved the Internal Improvement Act which allowed for the development of the Whitewater Canal and other improvements throughout the state. The estimated cost of the construction of the Canal would be \$1,675,738.00, length was to be 76.5 miles.

The Whitewater Canal reached Metamora in 1842, to Laurel in 1843, to Connersville in 1845, and to Cambridge City in 1846. The Whitewater Canal company didn't reach Hagerstown, the state went bankrupt after the canal reached Cambridge City. To complete the canal Hagerstown had to finance and construct its own canal to Cambridge City. The Hagerstown Canal Company completed an 8 mile canal from Hagerstown to Cambridge City in 1847.



In Metamora the Whitewater Canal still runs past the Grist Mill, now operated by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

The East and West Fork have flooded their valleys regularly, however due to the rate of fall and narrowness of the valley the East Fork had more devastating flood damage to its inhabitants and farmland. The West Fork has a broader valley and less fall, but carries a much greater flow of water and its' floods spreads out covering more farmland.

The Whitewater Canal 1836 - 1861 failed due to floods on the West Fork of the Whitewater River.

In 1834 "The

The canal got all of its water supplied by seven dams on the West Fork they were located at Cambridge City, Lockport, Nulltown, Laurel (still standing), Metamora, Brookville and Harrison.

Earlier that same year on January 1, 1847 a great flood carried away the aqueduct across Symond's creek, near Cambridge City, the aqueduct across the west fork of Whitewater at Laurel and damaged all the dams causing a loss of \$100,000. Just west of Brookville along the West Fork Woodhill Village south of Boundary Hill was destroyed by the 1847 flood.

That same flood the Whitewater Canal in Harrison, Ohio flooded and washed out, that section was never rebuilt.

The repairs were scarcely made from the 1847 flood when shortly thereafter another huge flood hit in November 1848 causing damage of \$80,000 to the canal. This time it was considered to abandon the canal.

A great effort was made to repair the canal, money was raised especially from the farmers who had products to ship.

A third flood in 1853 practically put the canal out of business completely.

The failing factor of the Whitewater Canal was that from Lawrenceburg to Cambridge City, it was built to low and sustained too much damage from high water, a frequent visitor of the Whitewater Valley. The section of canal built from Hagerstown to Cambridge City was built higher and sustained less damage, it continued to provide water for local mills. The last boat reached Hagerstown from Cambridge City in 1861.

Flooding in Franklin County along the East and West forks of the Whitewater River 1836 to 1974.

Comments made by The Whitewater River Flood Control Association, Inc. Jan 15, 1965 and printed by the Whitewater Publications of Brookville, Indiana is reprinted here with permission.

Flood control needed by residents of Whitewater Valley. Whitewater river floods cost lives and property damage. Floods have plagued the Whitewater Valley periodically since being recorded in 1836 thru

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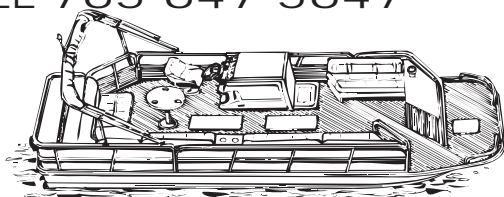
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1907 Brookville, Indiana, West Fork looking towards Boundary Hill. (Photo courtesy of Whitewater Publications, Brookville, IN)

1959 in an effort to convince those in the government entities of the need for a dam to hold back the flooding waters of the Whitewater River.

The list of the floods in the Whitewater Valley is astounding. Let the available newspapers tell the story:

April 15, 1836 - Heavy rains and flooding causes much damage to mills and fencing.

December 16, 1837 - Whitewater Canal then in process of construction badly damaged.

May 5, 1843 - Large number of mill dams destroyed.

June 9, 1843 - Canal badly damaged by flood.

January 1, 1847 - Canal practically destroyed. Another flood in November of the same year closed Canal for almost a year.

May 1848, August 1849 and March 1850 saw major floods.

December 1852 and again in 1853 the Canal was closed because of great damage.

March 12, 1869 and again in April 1869 there was high water which damaged the railroad that had been built on the old Canal towpath.

There were major floods in each of the four succeeding years but the most destructive flood of the Nineteenth Century came in 1898 when the river

rose to the greatest height within the "memory of man." This flood caused widespread damage and caused two deaths in Brookville. Again in 1907 the Valley experienced a major flood.

The greatest flood, and the most destructive, came early in the morning of March 25, 1913 when, by an unusual meteorological circumstance from ten to twelve inches of rain deluged the Ohio Valley watershed within a short time. In Brookville alone the homes of eight hundred

and seventy persons were either damaged or destroyed and fifteen lives were lost.

Again in 1929 great damage was done by high water and lower Brookville was flooded. In 1937, at the time of the great Ohio River Flood, only timely cessation of rain on four different days saved the Valley from devastation. Again in 1959 the "rains came" and immense damage was done in the lower Valley, in Brookville and in Harrison.

The Indians named the river the "Wah-he-ne-pay" meaning "white waters". Then the river was narrow, clear and deep. Today the forests are gone, the "run-off" is rapid, the stream has broadened, erosion has muddied the waters, and the average depth from Richmond to Brookville is twenty inches. With a fall of approximately six feet per mile from source to mouth the river rushes by at a speed, as measured in Brookville in 1959 of seventeen feet per second. The flood danger is becoming progressively greater and only the genius of modern engineering can prevent the periodic ravages.

Some Headlines:

1898 - Flood Loss \$750,000.00 - 2 Lives Lost
March 24, 1898 issue The Brookville American
 The Highest Water Known For Many Years, Several

lives lost, Bridges injured and the Railroad track submerged - No trains moving and all traffic to and from the city suspended

March 31, 1898 issue The Brookville American
 Bodies Recovered - No longer any mystery as to the fate of Philip Schue and Bert Osgood

1907 - Flood Loss \$350,000.00
January 24, 1907 issue The Brookville American
 East Fork - Of Whitewater River carries away more of Speer Mill, Race and Butler Field
 Estimated that flood three feet lower than 1898 would sweep through valley

January 28, 1908 Issue The Brookville Democrat
 Estimated Cost - Of building dam and changing channel of East Fork of Whitewater River
 Engineer Calvin Carter's figures fix cost of improvement

1913 - Flood Loss - \$4,500,000.00 - Total Lives Lost - 15
 March 28, 1913 Issue The Brookville Democrat
 Twelve Lives Lost, Immense Loss of Property by the greatest Flood in the history of the Whitewater Valley
 Five Bridges Over the East and West Forks at Brookville Swept Away

1929 - Flood Loss \$1,000,000.00 Town is isolated
 February 28, 1929 Issue The Brookville Democrat
 Whitewater River reaches flood stages early Tuesday morning, Railway and Bus service is suspended for 2 days

1937 - Flood Loss \$287,000.00
January 28, 1937 Issue The Brookville American
 Ohio Valley Devastated By High Water, Thousands homeless when flood submerges entire cities & towns

1959 - Flood Loss \$1,545,700.00
January 29, 1959 Issue The Brookville American
 Franklin County Declared Disaster Area, Governor Handley and County Commissioners act to aid sufferers from last week's flood

1847 to 1959 - Flood Loss from Brookville, Indiana to Cleves, Ohio \$11,007,700.00

Comments by Whitewater River Flood Control Association, Inc. January 15, 1965

Authority: Flood Control Act of June 28, 1938
Justification: Annual loss of \$15,000.00 per year with no major flooding. Loss from various floods as
CONTINUED ON PAGE 29



The lower end of Brookville, Indiana looking south during the March 1898 flood. (Photo courtesy of Whitewater Publications, Brookville, IN)



The completed Brookville Lake Dam, this picture taken November 9, 2004. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

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Big Game Hunting



by Joel Biltz



My Dream Bull

It all began in December of 2007; I was trying to decide which animal that I was going to hunt next. After much discussion, my wife and I decided that a moose was on the top of our lists. I knew I wanted to go to British Columbia, Canada, but I could not take the ten to fourteen days that it would require. That left my only option to be an eastern Canada or Shiras moose here in the states. Knowing the quality of eastern Canadian moose are pretty small, I decided that a Shiras moose would be my best bet. I called and talked to **Frank Cole** of **Cabela's Outdoor Adventures** and told him what I had in mind. He informed me that my only options for TAGS were landowner permits in Colorado and CWMU units in Utah. Mr. Cole mentioned one outfitter in particular that was consistently killing big moose, but he was unsure if he had any openings left. Approximately thirty minutes later Mr. Cole contacted me and informed me there was one opening left with **Daniel Richins** of **Weather Horn Outfitters** in a northern Utah. He provided me with a list of references and Daniel's phone number. I spoke with Daniel and his references. I came home that evening to talk it over with my wife. She gave me the okay and the next day I called Mr. Cole and booked my moose hunt. Daniel and I spoke many times throughout the next few weeks. He told me that I would be hunting the East fork CWMU unit and the elevation would be between seventy five hundred to ten thousand five hundred feet. I decided that I should get in better physical shape. I joined a gym and started weight lifting and cardiovascular training on an elliptical, stair climber, and treadmill.

The Hunt

I left my home in Indiana on Wednesday, September 24th and arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah at 10 am. We had about a one hour car ride to camp. During that time my guide and I discussed that the weather was not going to be in our favor. They were experiencing highs in the mid 80's which would make the hunt that much harder. That night I was filled with anxiety and anticipation.

Day 1 September 25

The first morning was very warm. We glassed for about three hours from different vantage points. We did not see anything so we decided to take a long walk to check some beaver ponds. Approximately an hour later we spotted a cow and calf. That really broke the ice for me. We



Here I am with the bull moose my great guide Cory "Heavy Shoes" Fitzgerald helped me find. My Christensen Arms Custom 300 Ultra rests across the forty inch wide and 10x8 frame, unofficially measured green 151 gross and 146 net Boone and Crockett, qualifying him for the Boone and Crockett minimum. (Joel Biltz Photo)

returned to camp to grab a bite to eat and take a quick nap. We headed back out to the beaver ponds about 3pm that afternoon. My guide and I finally found two cows right at dark, and decided to return back to the beaver ponds at first light since the rut should be in full swing.

Day 2 September 26

Day two started off very promising. At the first beaver pond we spotted a thirty inch bull and a cow. I was hoping to do much better so I passed him up. The next two hours were spent hiking from beaver pond to beaver pond to no avail. After a mid day break we decided to head back out to the mountain about 3 pm. My guide and I started hiking the timber trying to locate some fresh sign. After about an hour we decided to head back to the ponds before dark. As we headed towards the ponds on a 2009 Polaris Ranger 700XP we passed the ranch security officer. We informed him that I was moose hunting and he reported that he had just seen a very large bull bedded with a cow about a mile up the trail about five minutes earlier. This was the break we needed! The officer offered to take us to the area where the bull had been spotted. We drove about a mile and when we arrived the bull and cow were gone. My heart sank. My guide had a pretty good idea where they were headed so we unloaded the Polaris Ranger and headed up to a nearby beaver pond. Two hundred yards away I spotted a cow on a hillside, we looked behind her and spotted the bull. The guide thought we

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 28

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Kampfire Kookin'



with Ray McCune

KAMPFIRE KOOKIN'

On a recent trip to West Virginia I had a pinto bean cravin' flung on me. That's West Virginia talk for what happened when someone mentioned they were having pinto beans for supper and I remembered how my mom used to 'fix' 'em (that's 'prepare' in southernese). This recipe is for preparing one pound of dry pinto beans and will serve about four average persons or one Glad-To-Be-Back-Home-In-West (by gosh) Virginia- Pinto-Bean-Hungry Boy, and I'm not kidding. The next day I spent a little time outside – alone. I also picked up a few recipes for some other foods there.

Wild And Wonderful West Virginia Pinto Beans
1 pound (two cups) dry pinto beans
6 to 8 cups warm water (to soak beans)
1/4 to 1/2 lb. of ham cut in 1/2 inch cubes or a nice ham bone/knuckle
1 medium onion chopped
A large pot

Pick over beans and remove any foreign matter (sticks, rocks, bud balls, or broken beans. Rinse beans in water. Place beans in a large pot and add the warm water. Cover pot and soak beans overnight (6 to 8 hours). Pour off soak water and rinse beans again.

Put beans in a large pot (or crock pot) and add 8 cups of water. Add onion, ham pieces or ham bone and cook over or on medium heat until beans are tender. (Remove bone, strip off meat, cut into small pieces, and add meat back to bean pot – discard bone.) Let each person season their individual bowl of bean/soup with salt and pepper to taste. Serve with chopped raw onion and corn bread slathered in butter. Open the windows.

(Note: When serving up pinto beans to those opposed to eating ham, or any meat for that matter, flavor the beans/soup with liquid smoke to taste or put a container of Bac-Os (bacon flavored bits made from soy beans) on the table.

RAY'S WORLD FAMOUS COLE SLAW DRESSING
(Goes best on a West Virginia style hot dog.)
1/2 cup mayonnaise
2 tbsp. lemon juice (or vinegar)
1 tbsp. ground celery seed (optional)

2 tbsp. milk
1/2 tsp. sugar
Dash of salt

Blend ingredients and stir into a large bowl of finely shredded cabbage. The amount of cabbage will depend on your taste. I personally do not like my cabbage swimming in Cole slaw dress-

ing nor do I like my slaw 'dry'. I like the cabbage to be just coated with dressing and I like the cabbage chopped very fine.

NOTE: This style of Cole slaw is not good to eat as a salad but is best served on hot dogs. I would not chop the cabbage fine if I wanted to serve it as a salad to be eaten before the meal.

WEST VIRGINIA STYLE HOT DOGS
In West Virginia this is basically your favorite chili, without beans, served over a wiener in a bun. Of course you can smear a little yellow mustard on the bun before inserting the wiener and add a few chopped onions and some shredded cheddar cheese on top. Last of all you add the finely chopped cabbage flavored with Ray's World Famous Slaw Dressing.

Sean McCune's Method of Cooking A Wild Turkey
(Sean was raised in West Virginia where they take hunting and eating seriously.)
1 Turkey (plucked and cleaned – pick out shot pellets carefully – use giblets for gravy)
1 clean 5 - gallon bucket
1 new 13 - gallon tall kitchen garbage bag.
Roasting rack to place in bottom of pan to support turkey
Aluminum Foil
20 lb. bag of ice.

Brine:
1 gallon (128 oz.) Vegetable Stock or Chicken Broth - Do not use low sodium kind
1 cup kosher salt
1/2 cup brown sugar (use white if no brown available)
2 tbsp. Jamaican allspice berries
2 tbsp. candied ginger

Mix all these ingredients together and bring to a slow boil in a large stock pot until sugar and salt are dissolved. Set aside to cool thoroughly. Brine turkey about 8 hours before you wish to cook it. Place clean trash bag into bucket as a liner. Pour entire contents of cooled brine solution into bucket. Place turkey into the brine breast side down. Pack ice into brine pot to cover turkey. Fill bucket with water till full. Gently bob turkey a few times to mix ice water and brine. Use remaining ice to fill bucket to within 2 inches of rim. Cover bucket with a clean pan and place in safe, cool spot for 8 hours or overnight. Ice and salt will keep bird safe until you are ready to cook it.

When ready to cook turkey, remove from brine, drain, place on rack in pan, and pat dry.
Cavity Aromatics:
1 or 2 Cinnamon Sticks
1 apple (quartered)
1 stalk each fresh - rosemary and sage.

Divide the rosemary and sage along with the cinnamon sticks, quartered apple and onion and place pieces into cavity of bird and breast cavity. Tie legs together with butchers twine.

Cooking:
Fold a piece of aluminum foil into a triangle. Spay or grease the triangle as it will be touching the bird; this is to prevent the skin from sticking to the foil. With a thermometer inserted into the thickest, deepest part of the breast

Start bird at a 450 to 500 degrees oven temperature uncovered for 30 minutes. Cover with the shield and reduce heat to 350 degrees and cook until thermometer reads 167 degrees. Remove from oven and let cool for 20 minutes. Remove foil, thermometer, and aromatics after cooling. Slice and serve. Be careful of shot pellets.

Always talk to the natives when you go on a trip and see if you can pick up some local recipes to try when it's your turn to do the kookin' 'round your next campfire.

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Every year at the Annual Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Spring Show they have display cases displaying a collectors prized specimens. Above left is a display of petrified wood and at right trilobites. These photos were taken a few years ago. I looked through my files looking for some photos that hadn't appeared in The Gad-a-bout.

37th Annual Spring Gem, Mineral, Jewelry, Fossil Show and Sale

MARCH 5 - 7, 2010

The Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society's 37th Annual Spring Gem, Mineral, Jewelry and Fossil Show will be held at the Kuhlman Center located in the Wayne County Fairgrounds on March 5th thru the 7th, 2010.

The show opens at 9 a.m. Friday and closes at 6 p.m., then opens at 10 a.m. on Saturday and closes at 6 p.m. and on Sunday it opens at 11 a.m. and closes at 4 p.m.

An admission is charged at the door, Adults \$4.00, Seniors 60 and older \$3.00, Youth ages 7 to 18 \$1.00 and 6 years and younger FREE.

It is a tradition for Sherry and I to visit the Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society show. As I have said many times before we have been rock hounds all our lives. For the first few years I published The Gad-a-bout I held a get together I called a "Fossil Fling" inviting other rock hounds to the Whitewater Valley whom a Purdue Professor once told me that our area is the most fossiliferous area in the United States. I don't know about that, but we sure got our share of fossils here.

The Wayne County Fairgrounds is easy to find it is located on the west side of Richmond, Indiana, just north of U.S. 40 on Salisbury Road or just south of US 35 on Salisbury Road. (Word of caution if you want to travel the route from US 35 be aware that Salisbury Road is very rough). A better route from the north would be to take U.S. 35 south to the 4th stoplight, turn right onto NW L Street go west to Salisbury and left to the show.

For more information contact **Dave Straw 765-966-4249** or **John Lamont 765-647-4503**.

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Two more photos taken by Ray Dickerson at the Gem Show in Richmond, probably in 2001. Crystal display on the left and carved rock animal display. The show is well worth your visit if you enjoy viewing excellent rock displays.

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Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

Longbeards & Short guns

It used to be - or at least believed - that in order to have much success at killing turkeys with a shotgun, you were required to lumber through the woods toting a gun with a barrel long enough to joust with. The gun I was inaugurated into turkey hunting with was just such a gun - A long-barreled Remington 870. When it came to performance, that gun had no equal and it flung turkey loads capable of snapping a tom's neck instantly at distances greater than 50 yards.

So, when I was first introduced to the new generation of turkey guns a handful of years ago, I was in for a pleasant surprise. Today's turkey guns are much shorter and lighter, making chasing longbeards through the hill country a much easier task and maneuvering in tight brush much more doable. And get this - they hold tight patterns at long distances. Who would have thought this a mere decade ago?

The new Remington 870's, for instance, throw just as tight of patterns as my old one did, and they do so with a 9-inch shorter barrel and a few less pounds to lug around. Part of the reason for the retained accuracy, I am sure, is due to the advancement in high-powered turkey ammunition. Another part of it is due to today's tight patterning turkey



Top Photo: The new generation of 870 turkey guns are much shorter and lighter than their predecessors, yet every bit as effective. (Photo courtesy of Remington Arms Company) Bottom Photo: The Thompson/Center Encore proved deadly on a turkey hunt with the author. The Encore is shorter and lighter than the 870 but is a single shot so keep this in mind if you prefer the reassurance of quicker backup shots. (Photo courtesy of Thompson/Center Arms)

chokes. The advancements in each of these has made it totally unnecessary, if not useless, to carry a long-barreled gun into turkey country. There is nothing wrong with the longer guns, and if that is what you have, then use it. I am just saying that you don't need to feel like you need a longer gun in order to hold a tighter pattern or shoot a little further.

I hunted with my old 870 for years, and still do for coyotes, ducks and geese. But after getting tired

of hauling that thing around the hills of southern Indiana and Illinois, I decided it was high time to upgrade my 870. A year after my purchase, I also replaced the original stock with the tactical stock that Remington offers. You would not believe the difference that a pistol style grip makes on a turkey gun. Whether it is a thumb hole stock or a tactical one, it sure makes holding steady on a big gobbler a lot easier while you wait for the shot opportunity.

One other upgrade worth mentioning is outfitting your turkey gun with a scope. While on a hunt in Pike County, Illinois with Herb Schulz of Xtreme Management Hunts (www.xtreme-hunts.com) a few years ago, I used his Thompson/Center Encore equipped with a TruGlo red dot scope on a particular hunt. The Encore proved to be very light and a pleasure to tote through the hills of western Illinois. Also, I have always been impressed with TruGlo's with their regular fiber optic sights, but the red-dot scope added a new dimension for me. It completely took the guess work out of sighting in on the gobbler's head. I simply had to put the dot on his neck and shoot. No lining up the front and rear sights.

It can get costly to buy a gun specifically for turkey hunting, especially given the relatively short season. For this reason, many turkey hunters simply use the same shotgun that they rabbit, duck and deer hunt with, and it makes sense. A gun specifically built for turkey hunting is not necessary, but it is nice. Plus I travel to a few states each year, lengthening my season and I try to get out almost every day of the season, making it a little more justifiable for me.

So, if you are in the market for a new gun to hunt turkeys with, don't think you have to go long to hunt turkeys with, don't think you have to go long to gain accuracy or distance. This just isn't the case. And by considering the other things I mentioned here, you will end up with a deadly turkey gun.



The author knocked this gobbler down from 52 yards away with a newer Remington 870 designed specifically for turkey hunters. This is proof positive that you don't need a long barrel to gain distance anymore. (Photo by Joe Martino)

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For The Love of Archery



by Joe Studt

Two For One

The weather is mild for late October, I'm hunting South Eastern Indiana. It's an evening hunt, I move into the middle of the wood that has tall trees with white oaks, and maples all around. You can see a long way through the woods and it's getting late. I had put some Tinks 69 out and made a mock scrape. I got up in an ash tree straight and tall about twenty five feet. My Loggy tree stand locked in tight, I sat and prepared for a good hunt. It's warm and I was able to sit still and quiet, the wind was still and the woods also very quiet.

Not much movement in the woods not even squirrels the birds were not moving around either. I sat there as still as I could be, I moved my feet on my tree stand and you could hear them scratch the stand. I knew if I could hear that the deer could also, I started thinking if he could hear me I should be able to hear him also so I worked real hard and tried not to move no more than necessary. The sun started to go down behind the tree line to my right, shadows started to move in and the sun was so bright if I had to look right at it, it would be a little hard to move. I hoped the deer would come from the west not the east, they could pick up my movement as my silhouette would show up in the brightness of the sun. As if the deer came from the west they would look into the sun and would not be able to see me move quite as easy.

I was surprised to look up and see a nice Doe coming my way through the wood to my left. It's getting late so I had decided to take this Doe. I was able to get ready for the Doe, I picked up my PSE fireflies express and got ready for the shot. The Doe walked right up to my scent trail of Tanks 69 she stopped just before the mock scrape. I called her at twenty five yards; I drew my bow and split my twenty and thirty yard pins, aimed for the heart. Released the arrow and my 2213 autumn orange xx75 found its mark what a great shot it looked as if it couldn't have been better. The Doe dropped her head in the leaves and tried to run off, the leaves looked as if she was plowing snow as they spread out to fan by her head. Forty yards and she dropped, she was down and I could see it was over; I sat down to prepare myself to get down from the stand.

As I looked up and back to left: yep here came a Buck looking for that Doe I had just taken. The Buck

was on the same Tanks trail I put down, he came to the mock scrape and stopped broad side to me. Just so happens I still have my buck tag. That's right he's next on my game tag. I got my PSE ready and loaded another 2213 the deer still standing their and not moving he puts his head down to smell the scrape. It's time to draw, twenty five yard I aim for the heart again just like the Doe. I release the arrow the arrow finds the deer, IT'S HIGH. Once again I made a bad mistake and by not looking at all the factors before I take the shot.

The Buck turns and runs back to where he had come from. I sat down and started talking to myself about what I had just done. By the time I had gotten down from my tree stand it had gotten dark in the woods. I went over to my doe and dressed her out and dragged her to the edge of the woods. I loaded her up and decided to go and get some help to find my Buck. Just so happened my brother and his friend Bobby were hunting on my grandfather's farm about ten miles away. I decided to drive over to the farm and ask if they could help me track my deer.

Buddy my brother is always ready to go and find a deer, he and Bobby jumped into my car and we went buck hunting in the dark. We got to the woods and I took them over to the mock scrape and looked for blood or my arrow. No sign of the arrow or blood, we decided to fan out and look for blood or sign of a deer may have stumbled. Buddy brought his lantern and Bobby had his lite and I had my lite. We began looking close for blood first, it didn't take long Buddy found blood.

We marked it and started to circle for more as Buddy and I looked Bobby went ahead to our left, he was looking ahead with his lite and saw something white. He walked down a small ditch or the beginning of a ravine and on other side to a big dead fall log, He yelled and said here it is! I got excited that quick. Buddy and I worked our way over to where Bobby was in the darkness of the woods. I couldn't see any sign of the buck till I got up to where Bobby was standing and then I had to look over the log. He wasn't a large trophy deer but he had two more points then I had expected. I had shot the Buck high just above the lung on its right side. The arrow had just caught the right lung and got the left lung, he ran about a hundred yards. We gathered up my deer and loaded him in my cars trunk and off to house I went. I had two deer in that 1988 Buick and didn't make a mess in the trunk. It was a great hunt and everything came out alright. I learned a good lesson again, not to take for granted what is taking place in the woods and act on it to quickly. And I really needed to get me a truck to hunt out of my car just isn't the greatest to haul deer with.

Keep flippin' sticks, Joe

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Korbin Baird from Elizabethtown, IN took this 8 point, 190 lb. Buck on 12-07-08 in Bartholomew County, Indiana. (Korbin Baird Photo)



Mark Whittler from Owensville, IN took this 9 point, 178 lb. Buck on 11-27-08. It had a 20 1/2" inside spread, 11 1/2 G1 and 10 1/2 G2. (Mark Whittler Photo)



Paul Jensen, 12, of Wells County, nephew of Ray McCune, took his first squirrel with one shot with his .22 rifle. (Photo by Ray McCune, Kampfire Kookin')



Tim Hall took this 11 point, 204 lb. field dressed Deer on 11-18-09. (Norm's Bait Shop Photo, Campbellsburg, IN)



Rachel Murray, Marvin Neff's 17 year old granddaughter, took her first deer on September 27, 2009. (Ed's Trading Post Photo, Nineveh, IN)



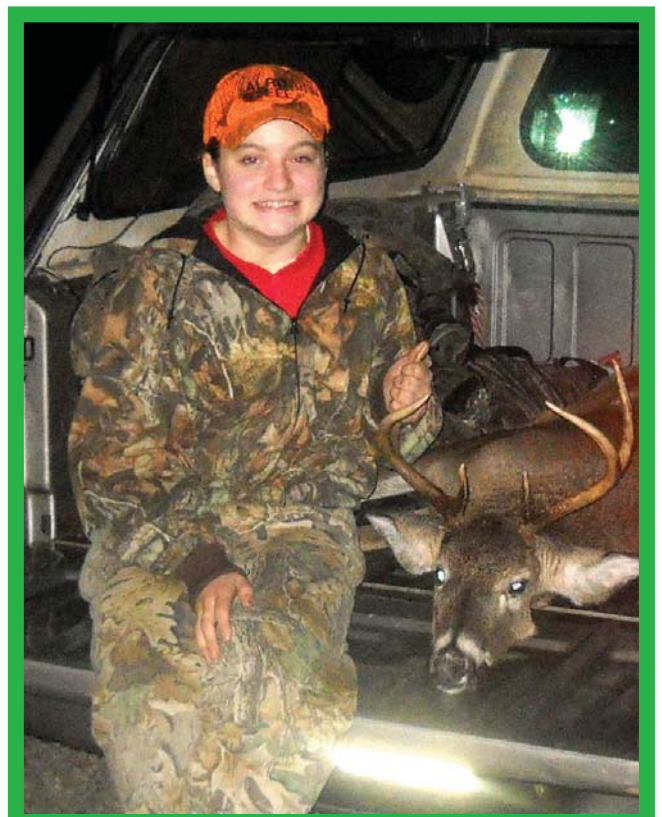
Warren Wright took this 8 point Buck in Yellowwood Forest during the 2009 muzzleloader season. It had a 17 1/4 inside spread. (Warren Wright Photo)



Tristan Richards, age 8, took his first deer, an 8 point buck with his muzzleloader while hunting with his father and grandfather in Brown County, Indiana 11-16-08. The deer had a ball (Inset) from an earlier shot by another hunter in its' right antler, also a healed over arrow head in his spine from a previous year. (Photos by great pa Bob Richards, Morgantown, IN)



Lorri McCall took this 17point buck at Camp Atterbury (south side) on November 3, 2009. Lorri retired from the Army at Camp Atterbury in July 2009. Her deer appeared here last month without her, she sent this photo. (Lorri McCall Photo)



This was an exciting hunt. The deer walked right past my stand. I knew it would soon be in front of my daughters, (Micah Hatley), stand. I watched it get out of sight and a few minutes later I heard her .410 go off, she got her first deer, a 7point buck!! My name is Dan Hatley, and I was hoping you could put her picture in the Gad About. (Dan Hatley Photo)

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Mr. Howard (Preach) caught this 6 pound 2 oz. largemouth bass in Washington County on 9-10-09. (Red Barn Bait Shop Photo, Salem, IN)



Cliff Jones took this 11 point buck. (Norm's Bait Shop Photo, Campbellsburg, IN)



Ron Smith took this 200 pound field dressed buck with a muzzleloader. His helper (?) is on the right. (Summit Lake Bait & Tackle Photo, Summit Lake, IN)



Mark Fields took this 10 point, 212 pound Buck in Union County on 11-10-09 with a Bow. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Clint Pinkston took this 18 point, 215 pound (field dressed) Buck. (Trotters Sports Center Photo, Sullivan, IN)



Steve and Tyler Soper with Two Indiana whitetails. Tyler Soper, at right, harvested his 190 lb, 8 point Buck with his father Steve who harvested his 187 lb, 12 point Buck from the same stand about 15 minutes after Tyler took his. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Gayle Gardner harvested this 12 point, 189 pound Hoosier monster buck with one muzzleloader shot. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Landon Sullivan took this 12 point, 175 pound Buck on 11-14-09. (Red Barn Bait Shop Photo, Salem, IN)



Scott Andrews took this 11 point, 222 pound Hoosier monster buck in the late muzzleloader season. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)

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Jeff Williams of Carthage, IN (pictured) caught this American Alligator in Little Blue River, after his buddy Trevor Apple found it, while tracking a doe on 10-24-09. (Williams Photo)



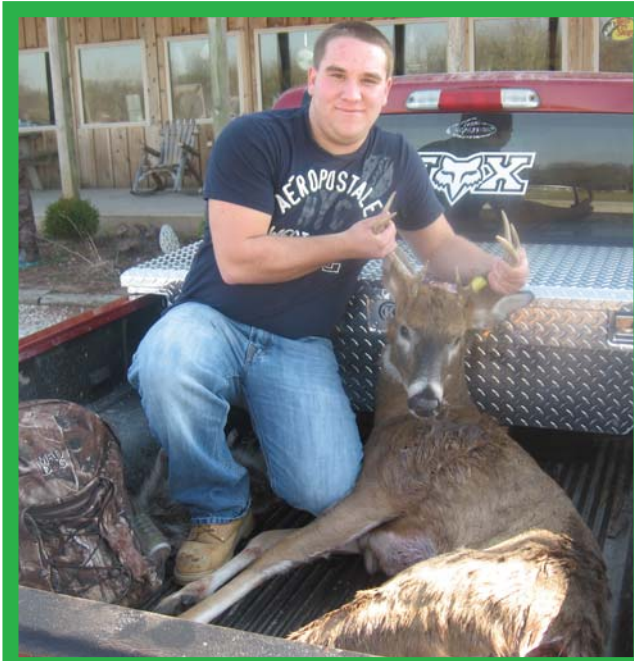
Shayne Spurgeon took this 14 point, 230 lb Buck with a bow on 11-03-09. (Red Barn Bait Shop Photo, Salem, IN)



Allyson Rodandello, age 9, took her 1st deer on 11-15-09 with a shotgun in Union County. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Brock Pierce took this 10 point, 182 pound Buck in Wayne County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Michael McDaniel took his first buck in Huntington County. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Bill Mears took this 9 point Buck in the Shotgun Season. (52 Pickup Marathon Convenience Store Photo, Brookville, IN)



Tim Harper caught these 8 catfish in Brookville Lake on 10-29-09. Tim is holding an 8 pound catfish in right hand. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Steve Hughes Jr. took this 13 point, 187 pound buck. Green score: 170 3/8 Net: 163 1/8. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Kenny Westerfield caught a nice mess of fish on the Salamonie Nov 24. These are a few of the big crappie they caught that day. If you could find a way to squeeze this photo in we would really appreciate it...it would make his day!! (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)

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Carl Conwell took his first deer taken with a bow, an 8 point, 190 pound (field dressed) Buck. (Trotters Sports Center Photo, Sullivan, IN)



Dick Schmid took this 9 point Buck in the Shotgun Season. (52 Pickup Marathon Convenience Store Photo, Brookville, IN)



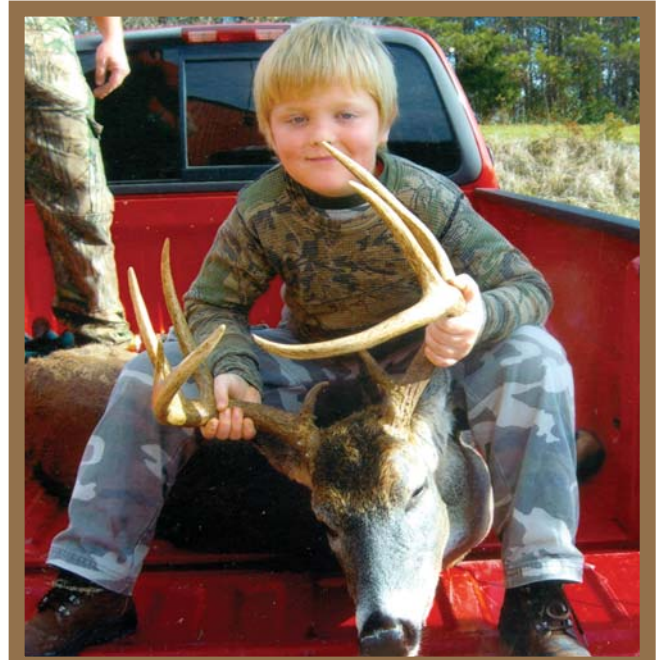
Tyler Nichols, age 10, from Bath, IN got his first deer on opening day of the firearm season and a nice one at that, good job Tyler, we're proud of You. (Photo by Chris Nichols)



Tristan Erwin took his "First Deer" a 9 point, 193 pound Buck. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Chance Creech took this 11 point, 205 pound Buck with a shotgun on 11-14-09 in Union County. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Quincy Yount, age 8, took this 10 point, 165 pound Buck on 11-14-09. (Red Barn Bait Shop Photo, Salem, IN)



Easton Nobbe, took this 11 point Buck, his 1st Deer, He harvested it using a 44 magnum in the Gun Season. (52 Pickup Marathon Convenience Store Photo, Brookville, IN)



Michael Eltzroth took this 11 point buck that weighed 175 pounds. He took it in Wabash County. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Jason Cummins took this 10 point, 210 pound Buck Bruiser in the late Muzzleloader season on 12/12/09. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)

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by Brandon Butler

Lessons Learned

Lessons learned are often the result of serious mistakes. On the opening day of Indiana's muzzle-loader season for deer, three young boys learned a number of valuable lessons thanks to the mistakes of myself and two friends.

David owns a 300 acre farm in Jackson County, where he hosts an annual muzzleloader season doe hunt. This year, nine hunters—six men and three boys—took part in the weekend ordeal. We shared a fire and a pot of venison chili Friday night. Listening the boys explain in detail their anticipation of the coming morning's hunt was enjoyable. I find being reminded of my youthful zest for the wild refreshing. I'm sure you probably do too.

One of the adult hunters, who has been hunting sporadically for years, took his first deer. It was a button-buck. This situation seems to happen quite a bit; a land owner manages for quality whitetails, so he obviously doesn't want buttons killed, but he wants to take some does off the property. He enlists friends to shoot does, and accidentally someone kills a button-buck. Now there's an elephant in the room. Get it out.

There's nothing wrong with shooting button bucks if that's what you want to do. Some argue they're the best tasting deer you can shoot. I don't kill buttons because I want to see them grow into bucks, and I can generally shoot enough does to fill a freezer. But when you're hunting a property with an established quality deer management plan, shooting button bucks is off limits.

Accidentally killing a button-buck is avoidable with a little knowledge and extra effort. Buttons often travel alone, or with only one other deer—another button-buck. Use your binoculars to glass the deer's head. Within a reasonable distance, given the power of your optics, you should be able to see buttons. Also, the face, or snout, of a button buck is short. And they're just not that bright, often wandering right through a drifting scent line. The most important part of not killing button-bucks is mentally remaining aware of the goal to not kill them. If you see a lone deer, and automatically think, I have to make sure it's not a button, then chances are you won't. This was the first lesson of the weekend the boys learned. Then we celebrated the adult's first deer.

David's son "Little Dave," is a 12 year old deer



David Ray, "Little Dave," is a 12 year old deer hunting machine. (Photo by Brandon Butler.)

hunting machine. We've hunted together twice before as youth season partners, and have always had good luck punching tags. On Saturday evening, instead of heading back to my stand, I decided to spend time once again hunting with my young buddy from our favorite spot overlooking a food plot in a power line cut.


The evening started slow, but right at dusk a nice doe entered the field. Upon realizing a shot was imminent, "buck fever" gripped Little Dave and he started shaking so bad he couldn't even hold his gun. When he finally calmed down and took hold of his muzzle-loader, the doe was looking our way and beginning to act nervous. Instead of telling Little Dave to take his time and pick a spot, I told him the doe was getting ready to run. At this announcement, I heard the safety click off, and then almost instantaneously, he shot. It was my mistake to create a sense of urgency.

When examining where the doe had been standing at the shot, the sign was disheartening. The blood trail was faint, and white stomach hair indicated a low hit. With hands and knees searching by lantern light though, we continued creeping along the trail. Soon, pin drops became pools, and I realized we were pushing a wounded deer. I explained my concern to the group, but the others wanted to continue the pursuit. This was our second mistake with this deer. The third mistake was made apparent soon after when we jumped the bedded deer, and realized none of us were carrying a gun. One of the first rules of hunting is never go to the woods without a weapon because anything can happen. We were in an unfortunate situation that was about to get worse.

The rest of the group now agreed we had to back out and give the doe time to expire. Big Dave, the landowner, said we just had to head over the ridge to get on the trail that would take us back to camp. When we topped the ridge, there was no trail. And no matter which direction we looked, nothing but pitch-black wilderness lay before us. We were lost in the wild expanse of southern Indiana. The boys fourth lesson was always mark your trail, so you can find your way out.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Bird Dog Points



by Dick Dunnuck
Photography by Kathy Dunnuck

First Fall Trial

Jeff Johnston, owner of Maggie and Bella, two outstanding field trial pups, showed up on Wednesday, November 11th to help load the van and get ready for our first field trial of the season. As most of you know by now, Jeff handles our dogs in the amateur stakes and is always a big help. Our first trial this season was held in Pike County near Petersburg, Indiana. This is one of our favorite grounds for walking field trials with some of the finest cover in Indiana. These are private grounds, owned by the **Pike County Bird Hunters Association**. This was two trials being held back to back with the **Weimaraner Club of Greater Louisville** hosting the trial on Thursday and Friday and the **Kentuckiana Pointing Breed Association** hosting Saturday and Sunday. Both of these trials were all breed trials with top notch dogs coming from Canada, the East Coast, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Iowa and Illinois. Both clubs hosted very professional trials and the Pike County Bird Hunters Association supplied all the meals. These cooks were superb, the variety was unbelievable. If you left their table hungry, it was your own fault. Over the years we have attended National events that were not run as professionally or had the food and facilities that we had available at these two trials.

We took six dogs to the trials, Maggie and Bella owned by Jeff Johnston, Pink owned by Michelle



Keith and Erma Moore with Star, outstanding young pup, with puppy and derby placements.

and Stan Nowacki, Star and Hunter owned by Keith and Erma Moore, and Murphy owned by Amanda



Jeff Johnston with Bella with second place puppy and third place derby ribbons.



Jeff Johnston and Dick with Maggie proudly displaying four day derby sweep.

Lester. After four days of competition, we came back with 14 placements. Jeff's outstanding derby dog, Maggie proceeded to win the amateur derby two days and the open derby both days for a four day sweep of the derby stakes. All of the other dogs had placements in their stakes. This was one of the most productive trials we have ever attended and really shows the quality of dogs we are getting in for training.

Kathy and I would like to thank both of these clubs for their hospitality, Jeff for handling the dogs in the amateur stakes, and our owners for their trust and confidence in us and our ability, and the Pike County Bird Hunters Association for their professionalism. We are looking forward to going back in February for another pair of trials.

Until next month good and safe hunting. Dick and Kathy Dunnuck. Shotgun Farm. 317-398-7580. [e-mail shotgunfarm@att.net](mailto:shotgunfarm@att.net) or visit our website at www.shotgunfarm.com



Michelle Nowacki with Pink with second place Open Derby and third place Open and Amateur Puppy.



Dick and Murphy with third place Open Gun Dog.

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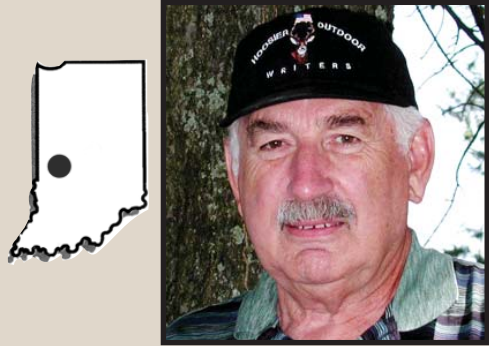
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and that's the news from
West Central Indiana



by **Don Bickel, Forester**

Those Big Yaller's

It is never too early to begin to consider the upcoming mushroom season. In Hoosier land's southern reaches, this beginning could be in early to mid-March. In the northern extremes on the Michigan line, the season may extend deep into May. In West Central Indiana, we split the difference by beginning serious "roon" hunting in mid-April

Combined with the serious part of mushroom hunting - identification - is the ever present possibility of trespass. "You guys are on the wrong side of the fence." This may be an all to familiar greeting as the mushroom seasons heat up. Many landowners find property-line fences become strangely invisible when some folks are on the search of mushrooms.

Although there are purists who wait and put their effort into searching for the big yaller or Sponge mushroom; *Morchella esculenta*, the Black Morels are seldom passed up by any "roon" hunter. Actually, even the "dyed in the wool" purist will let their guard down when the word circulates that these early one are being found.

The Black Morel: *Morchella augusticeps* is often



I call it a gray morel. By the book it is probably *Morchella esculenta* — Sponge mushroom. (Photo by Don Bickel)

found in ample numbers in the areas where it grows best. And with this particular mushroom, this may be the same area year after year. Blacks, along with several other Hoosier mushrooms, appear early in the spring season. In the "Mushroom Hunter's Field Guide", it is listed as "Edible and choice. Everybody eats it."

The long-stemmed ones: goose necks, horse necks, and other names unsuitable for mixed company, are often found in good numbers when conditions are right. These may be *Verpa bohemica*: the Early Morel or *Morchella hybrida*: the Half Free Morel. The "Mushroom Hunter's Field guide" refers to the Early Morel as one to be eaten with caution. Generally problems arise if this mushroom is eaten in large amounts over several days. The Half-Free Morel is listed as "Edible and of good flavor", although the caps may be better than the stem.

Another mushroom which appears early in the season is *Helvella esculenta*: Beefsteak mushroom or the Hoosier alias - Elephant Ear. The Mushroom Guide lists this fungus as "Dangerous, but edible and choice if you do not have a sensitivity to it." Considering this possibility of poisoning, it would not be advised to feed unsuspecting individuals this mushroom. A trial would be to eat a small amount and then wait a day for any reaction. This suggestion is for those spring-found mushrooms only since there are others which may cause death even though a small amount is consumed.

The Elephant Ear may be gathered in large numbers and eaten by many people, but the stomach discomfort experienced may not be from just overeating. Personally, I'll stick to sponge mushrooms.

There are few mushrooms that can be mistaken for the edible morels, but one individual may be sensitive to a particular mushroom while the next 100 can indulge until the supply runs out. To be on the safe side, pick and

bring home only those which can truly be identified.

My favorite identification book is the afore mentioned field guide by Alexander H. Smith and published by the University of Michigan Press. The guide covers the Great Lakes states and mushrooms, both edible and otherwise, which may be found throughout the year.

Now back to my opening remark. I made this to a pair of young gentlemen who apparently had not noticed the five-foot fence when they crossed it. I was hunting mushrooms in my favorite deer woods when the voices I heard told me someone was too far inside the property line. Since I had only been finding a few little gray sponges and the last remaining remnants of the flush of goose-necks or the Half-Free Morel, I quickened my step toward the sound of the voices.

Upon my statement of "You guys are on the wrong side of the fence." I was asked "Do you own this property?" I allowed that I did, upon which the spokesman for the pair said, "Well, we'll go back." But instead of turning around, they began to walk straight ahead, so my next question was, "Whose property did you start out on?" I was sure I knew the answer and rightly so advised them to turn around and take the deer trail up the hill to the fence.

As they walked away, one of the pair, picked up a nice yellow sponge from the trail. He said that since this was my property, the mushroom was also mine. Feeling gracious at that point, I said go ahead and put it in your sack. I tell you of all this because of what happened next.

I turned with the thought that I hadn't found any spectacular mushrooms in the area, I was previously looking, so I would just start right here.

My next eight or ten steps took me away from the area where the above conversation had taken place. There, in the middle of the deer trail, stood an 8 inch *Morchella esculenta*. Sponge Mushroom. Big Yaller. Ahead of it and on both side, stood more of these, "creme de la creme" of the Hoosier mushroom harvest. Now, I can be thankful for small favors, because Lord if I don't find another mushroom this season, I'll be satisfied. When the picking ended, the earlier found mushrooms were squashed comfortably in the bottom of the mesh orange sack and the last of the big callers just peeked over the top.

I don't know how many there were or how much they weighed, but now after being sliced in half and soaked in saltwater to rid them of the woodland bugs, they await a covering of cracker crumbs and a short swim in a hot skillet.



Morchella esculenta, Sponge mushroom, Big Yaller — by any name it is the best. (Photo by Don Bickel)

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Trap Lines



by Jack Turner, Jr.



Top: An old photo of me with stretched furs in front of my fur shed. Middle: A few photos of legendary trappers and a set of deer antlers adorned the walls just above the doors. Bottom: I made shelves to hold lures, baits, urine's and other trapping related items. (Photo by Jack Turner, Jr.)

Reflecting On The Loss Of A Friend

In 2004, I said goodbye to a trapping friend, Bill Gilbert of Brookville, Indiana. Bill and I had trapped together the previous season around the Brookville Lake area. Bill's sudden passing saddened me and I think of him every trapping season.

In March 2009, I lost another trapping companion. We spent ten years sharing memories such as mixing lures, skinning and fleshing furbearers, singing songs, writing articles and tossing down some cold beverages. My "friend" was not a fellow trapper, but was a structure. It was my fur shed.

Some may find it comical that I would view my fur shed as a "friend". However, I see a fur shed no differently than those who may have a deep fondness for their first automobile or current prized possessions.

I moved into my home on Weathervane Lane in Harrison, Ohio in April 1999 and immediately took steps to turn a 10 x 8 foot junk-choked shed into one that was a combination of a museum, fur and lure making structure, writer's pad and at times, a karaoke bar. It was a place to unwind, to reflect and to vent my frustrations.

I began the transformation by adding shelves, lots of them, to hold lures, baits, urines, nails & push pins, certificates and other items. Next I made skids from 2 x 4 studs and plywood to keep trapping items off the floor. Third, I added photos of trapping legends and a set of deer antlers on the inside, just above the doors. To keep the idea of a museum in check, I added a glass display case to hold a small collection of old traps as well as my ever growing lure collection. Being a fisherman, as well as a hunter and trapper, I added nails to the rafters to hold fishing poles. Hooks were added to the wall studs to hold wire stretchers.

Over the course of two years, I added items and moved things around until I had what I envisioned as the perfect hang out for an outdoorsman.

Having connections certainly helped me a couple of years later as a man, who worked for the City of Harrison street department, made me a street sign that said Trapper Ln. He posted it on an old rusty pole and I mounted it a few feet in front of the shed.

In the summertime or after evenings of fur handling, I often wrote articles for the Gad-A-Bout, The Buckeye Trapper, American Trapper and Fur Taker magazines. Letters to distant trappers and family members as well as poems and songs were also written in my shed.

Whenever I spent time in the shed, I usually had music playing. Cassettes and CD's of Toby Keith, Louis Armstrong, Sugarland, Chris LeDoux, Jim Croce and John Denver were frequently played. During times of sadness or anger my music, and

voice, belted through the shed walls to the outside world often being heard by my not-so-fortunate neighbors. I thought then, as I do now, how many nights my neighbor, Becky, laid in bed unable to sleep having had to endure my terrible singing voice.

I am curious as to how many animals were skinned, fleshed and stretched in what I considered my home away from home. My first coyote was skinned and fleshed in there as well as my first beaver and skunk. One of the deer my son, Jonathon, killed was also butchered inside.

Conversations with friends Robert Taylor, John Gdula and Bill Gilbert took place in that fur shed. Being a historian and antique collector, Robert enjoyed the look of my mini museum. John, Bill and I enjoyed conversation surrounding lure making, fur handling and traps.

Development of Trapper Jack Lures took place in that gray and black painted shed. Many hours of formulating, bottling and labeling lures could be witnessed by those walls. More than one batch of lure was pitched outside those doors often resulting in my two dogs rolling around in the not-so-good concoctions.

On many occasions, my children made their way through the doors. At times, my boys would want to watch me skin, flesh and stretch furbearer pelts. I would educate them not only on fur handling, but also facts about the animal itself. They saw beaver castors and oil sacs being removed. They were able to see skulls and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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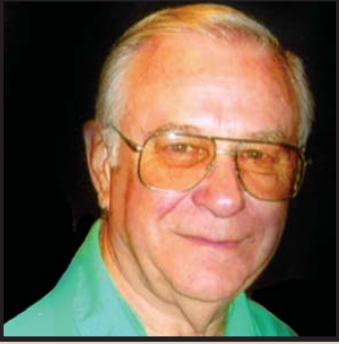
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Ramblings from Da Region

by Gene Clifford

**The All-Round Dog
 "The Beagle"**

More shotgun shells are spent on rabbit hunting than any other game animal in the Midwest. Along with this statistic goes the most popular dog for this sport—the Beagle. They are excellent pheasant dogs and are willing retrievers. I once had a beagle that would bay on rabbits but would yip on pheasants, telling me that I'd better get up with the dog, as he was either going to catch that pheasant or put it up in the air. The beagle I have now is a rabbit retriever of his own choosing, as I have not taught him this trait. It all started once when I shot a rabbit in some extremely thick briars which would have needed a dog to retrieve it and he came to my rescue, kinda , with a look on his face telling me to pick my shots a little more in the open from now on.

Maybe their sound is not as glamorous as an elk bugling in the Rocky Mountains, but the excited baying of a pack of beagles on the hot trail of a rabbit, here in the Midwest, is one of the classic sounds of the fall hunting season.

Having been a beagle owner for over 50+ years, I can attest to the fact that although beagle hounds are often strong-willed, they are very affectionate, and with diligent training and handling, they may serve quite well as both field dogs, and family pets.

The present beagle I have now, "Zeke", is 6 1/2 years old , and undoubtedly the best beagle I've had and trained, mainly, no doubt, because I've had more time to work with him since I retired in 1999. I've had 5 males over those 50+ years, some as long as 14 years and some for less than 10 years.

Zeke was born on March 17th, my wife's birthday. "Happy birthday Honey, I got you a beagle pup" And on my next birthday I received a mink stole.

I'm a lifelong rabbit hunter, but some of my past beagles just weren't up to snuff, and I should have left them home in the kennel. One was a good rabbit runner as long as he could see it he could sight run it. If he lost sight of it he would wander around until he sighted me and return to follow me wherever I was going. Another one was a silent runner and never opened up when running a rabbit, so I never knew just where the dog was. One of the pups I was training had the same tendencies, and at his annual check-up at the vet , I mentioned it, and the vet advised me that when a rabbit was jumped to get down on my hands and knees and bay like a mother beagle. Surprisingly, he caught on to what I was doing, and started to open up when he got on a fresh



Zeke voluntarily retrieving rabbit. (Photo by Gene Clifford)

trail. All my beagles have been family pets besides being an occasional good hunter. Regardless of whether they were good hunters or trailers, they sure took a lot of the effort out of kicking all the brush piles and fence rows myself, and seemed to be eager to do what comes naturally to them.

I've always played with my pups and tried to teach them how to retrieve a tennis ball or thrown stick. When they couldn't find the ball or the stick, I'd rub some bacon grease on it so they could find it by scent.

I've found that you don't have to teach a well-bred beagle to retrieve. They quite often do it instinctively.

Most of my past beagle pups were purchased for \$50 or less, from people that just had beagle pups for sale. Whereas, my present beagle, "Zeke", cost me \$200, because I bought him from a beagle breeder who just happened to be the President of a local beagle hunters club. It has proved to be a worthwhile investment, with many happy returns.

When looking for likely places to hunt rabbits, remember, that if there are no, or little briars, there will be no , or little rabbits. When I say briars, I mean Blackberry, Raspberry, and Multi-flora Rose. In the winter, this is what the bunnies, primarily feed on, regardless of the depth of the snow. Bunnies will stick to the thickest cover that will provide them protection from the wind and precipitation. These briar patches are classic types of cold weather cover.

If you jump a rabbit in this thick cover and don't have a clear shot, take a position where you do, and just wait for the dogs to bring the rabbit back, as they seldom run more that 50 to 80 yards from where they were jumped, and circle around to return to their point of origin.

Rabbits breed like, well, rabbits. So don't expect to take any more than say, 1 rabbit for every 2 or 3 acres of area hunted. This will give the area a chance to replenish itself. If you do locate an area with a decent amount of rabbits, don't hunt it more than once a week using the ratio I just stated. It's better to have several such places and hunt them on a rotating basis.

If you are serious about owning and training a great rabbit dog, then consider joining a local field-training club.

Beagles have lots of desire to hunt, and please their owners. So despite what some people say, a great field dog can also be a wonderful family pet.

2010 Turkey Tracks Handicap Hunt

I wrote about this 1st annual Starke County hunt in the July 2009 issue of the Gad-a-bout. They are now **CONTINUED ON PAGE 28**

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Ribbon Pavilion (Tackle Town). This new feature showcases those non-motorized activities such as Hiking, Fly Fishing, Geocaching, Biking, Rock Climbing, Canoeing & Kayaking, Camping, Bird Watching and Nature Photography.

Also included in this same building are the daily fishing seminars by experts in a variety of fishing areas. The aisles are packed with displays of thousands of fishing poles, reels, lures and more to look at and purchase.

Fishing charters to fulfill your choice of species and destination are also located here.

At the other end of the complex, in the Expo Hall, the 13th Annual Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo will show its wares on the first three days (Feb. 19-21) of the Sports Show. Seminars and clinics featuring nationally renowned bowhunters, waterfowl experts, and gun dog demonstrations will entertain and educate show goers. The Gad-A-Bout's own Brandon Butler will be speaking on how to find hunting areas in Indiana. An indoor archery range, 3-D Bowhunter Challenge, the Indiana Waterfowl Calling Championship, deer rack scoring, and the Legends of Indiana Wall of Bucks are located in this building.

In this same Expo Hall, the last four days of the Show (Feb. 25-28) will highlight the 19th Annual Motorcycle Exposition. On display at center stage here will be some of the most beautiful motorcycles, both new and old, you have ever seen. On the runway will be the fashion show of a wide variety of motorcycle apparel worn by some beautiful models. Then visit the Tiny Tots Test Track as the youngsters try their skills with miniature motorcycles (with training wheels).

In the Champion's Pavilion, you can watch the popular Dock Dogs. The dogs entered in this competition run a long dock, then (usually) take a flying leap into the water. The longest jumper is the winner. In this same pool, Twiggy the skiing squirrel will perform. Champions is also where you will find Diver's Supply. This exhibit can introduce you to the sport of scuba diving including all the gear and instruction you need. Before you leave this building, check out the ATV's, Water Ski exhibitors, Truck Accessories and more.



Sherry "Gad-a-bout" Dickerson in The Gad-a-bout booth at the 2009 Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

If your interest is boats, go to the West Pavilion. There are so

many boats on display they spill over into the South Pavilion. Continue through the boats until you enter the camping venue where dozens of pop-up campers, fifth wheels, travel trailers and Class C recreational vehicles are available for your viewing.

I left the best (my opinion) until last. The Pepsi Coliseum is home to most of the travel and vacation exhibitors at the show. State Travel Divisions, Tourism Associations, Convention &

Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show Returns--Again

The Ford 56th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport, & Travel Show returns to the Indiana State Fairgrounds in February. Once again, this 10 day event will bring a taste of what we can get outside and enjoy after winter is over. Six buildings with over 600 exhibitors from over 22 states and Canadian provinces will be waiting to entice you into the Great Outdoors.

I imagine there are a few readers out there who have been to more of the Indy shows than I have, but not many. I have only missed two or three of the 56. I know some of you have been to several or maybe only one of the Renfro Sport Shows. You are not the ones for whom I am writing this article. I know anyone who has been to this Show will not have to be persuaded to return. You are already "hooked". This is for those who have not yet attended this outstanding event.

The name—Boat, Sport & Travel Show—does not tell it all. True, there is one huge building full of almost any kind of boat imaginable, from canoes and kayaks to nearly house size cruisers. And granted, four of the other buildings contain outdoor sports of all kinds from hunting and camping, to motorcycle riding, with one so loaded with fishing gear it's called Tackle Town. And, I certainly don't want to leave out my favorite building, the one loaded with information on travel and vacation ideas.

But the name doesn't tell you everything. For instance, it doesn't mention the North American Quiet Sports Outdoor Expo located in the Blue



The West Pavilion is full of all kinds of boats for you to find just the right one for you in 2010. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)




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Top: Youngsters try their luck catching Rainbow Trout in Tackle Town (Blue Ribbon Pavilion). Middle: The Pepsi Coliseum has on display all the recreation destinations you could ever want to go to. Bottom: The famous "Hawg" trough with guest Pro Fishermen telling you how they catch fish consistently. (Photos by Ray Dickerson)

Visitors Bureaus, hunting and fishing outfitters and independent resorts and lodges across the U.S. and Canada are located in this building. My first of many trips to Canada was booked in 1970 in this building. (My brother ended up buying the camp we went to!)

From talking with the exhibitors at the wide variety of booths here, we have taken numerous trips to North Alabama, Virginia, West Virginia, Florida, Missouri, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, and several other states. We have gone fishing, hunting, camping, canoeing, horseback riding, hiking, caving, and just relaxing on close to a dozen trips a year just from information acquired in this building. If you are one of my regular readers, you have already read about many of these trips in the Gad-A-Bout.

If I haven't touched on anything of interest to you yet, you're probably reading the wrong magazine. If I did get you a little excited, mark your calendar for **February 19-28, 2010**. The Show is open on Friday the 19th from 3-9, both Saturdays from 10-9, both Sundays from 10-5, Monday thru Thursday, 3-9, and Friday the 26th from 1-9.

Since I obviously wasn't able to tell you everything about the Show in this small space, go to the website at www.renfroproductions.com or call 1-877-892-1723 for more information and answers to all your questions.

The author may be reached at eyewrite4u@aol.com.

Outdoors Tales

by Phil Junker

One dog's passing leads to another

It was a very sad day -- the second day of the New Year. We had to have our youngest rat terrier, Buddy "put to sleep" He had terminal cancer.

After our old doberman/coon dog mix was killed after following trick or treaters down the hill from the house, our older rat terrier Augie was very lonely. So were my wife, Phyllis, and myself. That's when we went looking for another rat terrier, and found Buddy.



Tyler, the newest member of the Junker household, is a six-month-old Teddy Roosevelt terrier. (Photo by Phil Junker)

He couldn't be registered because his father was a standard breed and his mother a miniature. We didn't care. We were looking for companionship for us and Augie, and hopefully a dog that would learn to tree squirrels.

Buddy loved the woods. He was a non-stop runner. As far as squirrels were concerned, he loved to chase them. However, he wasn't much for treeing. He wasn't much of a squirrel dog, but then I'm not a good hunter.

But, I can't express the joy Buddy gave us. We took him to Dr. Stokes late summer. I thought he had an injury in his "private area". I should have taken him sooner.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Camping Here & Beyond



by John and El McCory

“Getting Away From It All”

We're back from our camping and cruising trip that took most of November, and, thank goodness we encountered no bad weather, except of course if you don't count not being able to get in to the cruise port at Half Moon Cay because of being in the tail end of Hurricane Ida. A rather humorous incident took place a few years ago on another cruise, I believe, on Tortola. At the market place where we were shopping for souvenirs, we noticed the little proprietress moving around the displays watching us intently. Did we look guilty? I don't think so. She finally came up to us and asked if I was on "Days Of Our Lives". Had I known about whom she was speaking, I probably would have faked his autograph and made her day.

At home we had no snow to blow or shovel, only leaves, that is until today and at this writing 4" of the white stuff has fallen and it's still snowing. Each flake has "go South" written on it.

During the camping season we ask our overnight returnees what persuaded them to go out of their way to come back to our little facility to camp. They most always say it's because we spent time with them. Just before we closed for the winter, a lady from Chandler, Arizona was in our area to locate her great-grandfather's grave. She visualized a monumental task, but I just happened to have an old map (drawn by a local Jay County high school student) showing the exact location of that old cemetery. The lady also found a bundle of information in the local library. All I had to do was to photocopy the map and give her the location of the library. She wants to come back again next year to find out more information in the Fort Wayne Library, now housing one of the top two or three genealogical sections anywhere

in the United States. When, and if she returns I will direct her to a campground closer to Fort Wayne, so she won't have the 110 mile round trip each day. We notice the same types of replies in other camper club magazines and newspapers such as Woodalls, Escapees, Coast to Coast, and on the Internet where people have comments about various campgrounds they visit. Everyone has different experiences and what some people really like, others say they'll never return to that particular facility. That really makes management stay on their toes to try to please everyone. Guess what. It's impossible.

Word of mouth travels quickly and we've had many referrals by full time campers just because we showed a little interest in their personal plight. That's the reason we like to stop at new (to us) campgrounds as we travel so we can meet the owners/managers/work campers and ask questions to get new ideas, help answer their questions, and learn various new techniques which we can pass on to other owners/managers. We don't know the details, but a young couple near Woodville, Alabama, who have owned their campground only about three years have designed their swimming pool as a saltwater pool. They say it saves them a lot of money for chemicals as the chlorine is already in the salt they use. We spent about two hours of really enjoyable discussion about what their campground was like when they purchased it. One can tell they've made many new improvements on the 6 acres. They would like to purchase an adjoining really rough 10 acres and develop the land for camping and cabining. Their designs were really good and it shows what a couple can do with a little ingenuity and some hard work. The only minor suggestion we had for them was on their brochures.

We talked with several work campers in the South who'd been at campgrounds and resorts for several winters and probably could take over management of the facility. But having been retired or nearly so, they didn't want the responsibility of managing everything. In most cases work campers get along well in their volunteer role but there must be an agreement between them and the owner/manager or public agency as to what their tasks will be, how long they work, when they get time off and several other agreements. Otherwise they may become overworked by just doing non-enjoyable tasks all the time at the facility.

A lot of work campers say they would go back to the facility where we had met them, and upon returning to the same campground the next trip we might see the same work campers, enjoying the out of doors, the people, the area, and the jobs they perform. If you travel, get in a conversation with work campers at various facilities and you'll notice they nearly all have interesting stories to tell. Some provide travelogues at evening programs.

We've talked with several who've been all over the nation and worked in all types of facilities, filling

in for others who've moved or had family illnesses or deaths, or had taken other jobs. It gives them time to help and also to get a flavor of the surrounding community and its residents, the work force, the products they produce and send to other parts of the nation and to the world.

As you read this, we've been in Tampa, Florida volunteering to "man" the Indiana Campground Owners booth at the big RV and Camper show. The campgrounds in Indiana get a lot of snowbirds going south in the fall, then back north in the spring. Let's not keep having Indiana to be known as a drive through state. Give out some extra Hoosier Hospitality if you see any of the northerners at your hometown business or at your favorite campground. Welcome them to the Hoosier State and converse with them about it's many attributes, things to see and do and, even if they're in a

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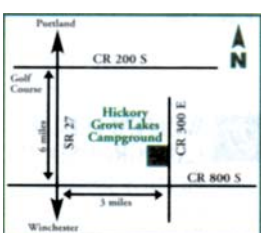
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Misfires & Snags




by Dan Graves

enemy activity, he was dragging them in like a commercial tuna fisherman while I would occasionally have one bumble into my jig and get hung up. I never caught so many fish by the tail or on a dorsal fin. Now, don't get me wrong. It doesn't matter how you catch a fish as long as it doesn't involve an old crank type telephone or a quarter stick of dynamite. But, doggonit, I have my pride and having to take the hook out of the tail of a fish is embarrassing. Then, I set the hook on a bite and the light, 5\$ rod and reel combination bent double. After a while of trying to get the thing to the surface, the water boiled beside the boat and something that looked like a Japanese WW 2 torpedo surfaced.

"Bring it in" yelled Rollin.

"I can't" I yelled back. "This Dollar General Store rod and reel couldn't pull a marshmallow out of a bag".

He finally shoved a landing net under it and hauled a 15-1/2' crappie aboard. After the excitement died down I kissed the fish, named it Ralph and slipped it back into the lake.

Later trips produced four more sizeable crappie for me, the smallest being 13-1/2" along with a lot of 8 to 9 inchers. I was beginning to neglect my fly rods as I added more and more crappie jigs to the tackle box. I still snicker at the names given to certain flies, like Woolly Buggers and Humpy Hairwings, but when I tied on a crappie jig called a Shinee Hinee I knew that all fishermen were one brick short of a load. If a non fishing friend asks what I caught something on, I tell them I caught it on a diamondback rattlesnake. That really impresses them. I'm not about to tell them that a fish was dumb enough to strike something called a Shinee Hinee.

The last fishing trip this year was made when the temperature was 42 degrees and a stiff wind was blowing across the lake, freezing us with a wind chill factor that felt like 500 degrees below zero. This time we were using crank baits looking for bass. Rollin reeled in a 2-1/2 pounder while I wondered if dedicated fishermen were really so dedicated or just mentally retarded. I cast something that was bright blue and silver next to a dock, got a solid hit and set the hooks. Whatever this thing was it was putting the Dollar General Store rod and reel to the test. After a short tussle a big bass (in my eyes anything over 8 inches is big) rolled up by the boat. After his yelling at me to bring it in and then my telling Rollin that Dollar General didn't sell cranes, he hoisted it out in the landing net. By some bass fishermen's standards it wasn't a monster, but to me it proved that fish are hungry even if they are swimming around in ice cold water.

It was now obvious that if I were to do any more fishing with spin casting gear I would have to spend more than \$5 for a rod and reel combination. And, my line, when cast, shouldn't come off the reel looking like it had been given a curly perm. So for Christmas, my wife bought me a fine reel and rod combination along with a good supply of crappie jigs, thanks to Rollin's help. In a prominent spot in the box full of jigs is a good supply of Shinee Hinee's. Hmmm, I wonder if the cove in front of our place is frozen over?

Fish 'em if you got 'em

Looking out the window tells me that fishing season for anyone who prefers sweating to freezing is over until the coming spring. I've had invitations to ice fish on the lake, but unless the ice is three feet thick, clear as crystal, and I'm wearing a life preserver equipped with a safety line manned by my wife on shore, I'll pass if you please. I've never been able to convince myself to step onto frozen water and trust it not to crack and drop me into the liquid, super cold variety. I told a friend who made the invitation that if he would bore the hole, I would stand on shore, cast my line to him, and he could drop the bait into the hole and tell me when to set the hook and drag whatever I caught ashore. In fact, I'm considering building a shelter for all the geese, ducks, and blue herons that must be freezing their buns off swimming around in ice cold water.

All I have to keep me until next spring are the memories of the last few trips I made with Rollin on the lake. As I mentioned in previous articles Rollin is armed with a boat that will break the sound barrier, an array of gear that would make Wal-Mart envious and a passion for fishing that even Bill Dance can't equal. Using the electronic gear on the boat, he has studied and knows the topography of the lake better than his own back yard. In fact, I believe he knows the fish by their first name because he has caught most of them at one time or another. As for a fishing partner he knows where they are and what they are hitting. His lures, that is.

My position is at the stern while he takes the captains slot at the bow; in other words, the first location of the fish. I really don't mind his catching ten

crappie to my one, but there are times when I'd like to even the playing field. This last summer I had the chance, not in quantity but in quality. Over a spot that showed a mess of fish on the same electronic device used by the U.S. Navy on nuclear subs to detect

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Fishing Lake Michigan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

season for Indiana lasts until April 30th.

We hit a lull in the action as we marched along the central Indiana hillside but we put up 3 more chukars in the next strip of cover we hunted. I bagged 2 of those and Will finally broke the ice, as well. I was feeling quite pleased with my shooting, going 3 for 3, so naturally, the next opportunity I was served caused me to re-think just how easy chukars can be. Three shots, not even a feather. ■

BIG GAME HUNTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

should back out and see if they would come up to the pond. We waited for about thirty minutes, but it was starting to get dark. We decided to make a move so we headed down the timber to try and get a better look at this bull. At this point I was still unsure of how big the bull really was. One look at him through my Leica Geovid 10x42's I knew he was a big bull. I clicked the button on my Geovid's and it said 167 yards. I scrambled up to an aspen tree to get a solid rest. When his chest cleared a tree I slowly squeezed the two pounds out of my Christensen Arms Custom 300 Ultra, breaking the bull's shoulder. As he headed off towards a canyon I shot him two more times with the 168 gr. Barnes tipped TSX and he went down. He tried one more time to get on his feet so I shot him one last time in the spine and finished him off for good. My emotions were beyond control. My guide and I exchanged high fives and headed to the bull. Those 167 yards seemed like two miles, but when we finally got to him we could not believe our eyes. This bull was one of the prettiest bulls I have ever seen. My guide said that this was one of the best moose ever taken in the area. After a long photo shoot we loaded him in the Polaris Ranger and headed back to camp. He was right at forty inches wide and had a 10x8 frame with great palms and mass. He has been unofficially measured green 151 gross and 146 net Boone and Crockett. This qualifies him for the Boone and Crockett minimum.

I would like to thank Frank Cole from Cabela's for booking my hunt. Daniel Richins of Weathered Horn Outfitters for the quality hunting experience and my great guide Cory "Heavy Shoes" Fitzgerald for helping me find that once in a lifetime bull. I could not have done this without this great group of people. I also would like to thank my wife Jenni for standing by my side while I pursue my hunting passions! ■

Driftwood Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

We walked in the wrong direction for about a half-hour before finally sitting down to collect our thoughts. Lesson number five, as soon as you realize your lost, sit down, and analyze your situation. Blindly stumbling through the forest usually worsens the situation. We decided that no matter what, if we continued to walk west, we'd run across the county road the cabin is on. Thankfully, one of the boys had a cell phone that actually has an electronic compass in

it. Technology does have it's moments.

Another half-hour later, we were walking six wide on a gravel road heading back to our rustic abode, laughing all the way. The next morning, we made an easy recovery on the doe. Which, in lieu of all the mistakes we adults made, taught the boys a great lesson about never giving up on a blood trail. Although mistakes were made, important lessons were learned by hunters young and old.

See you down the trail... ■

TRAP LINES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

bones of various animals. And they could examine feet and paws so they could later identify tracks.

My youngest son, Patrick, and I would play sports & outdoors trivia where he would want me to ask him questions about sports teams, fishing, hunting and trapping. It was a way for us to spend time together while I worked on furs or made trapping lures. If those shed walls could talk, they would also reveal things my daughter, Maggie, and I sometimes talked about such as relationships with boys, her friends or her mother.

In March 2009, I lost my second home during a marital separation and eventual divorce. It was the end of an accumulation of memories that had spanned ten years. Yes, if those walls could talk they would say many, many things, perhaps some not so favorably.

I suppose that is really how memories are whether they are experienced in the fur shed, home or other places. You have the good and bad.

I hope that you have a great year, a great decade, of creating memories that will last a lifetime. I wish all of you the very best. ■

Ramblings from Da Region

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

planning on having 15 handicapped youth hunters, with life-threatening illnesses, participate this spring, on April 23,24, and 25, 2010. The organizers are in the process of being classified as a 501 C3 organization, and are looking for individual and corporate sponsors. The "Adopt a Hunter" program, for \$150, would cover the costs of the motel stays and the necessary licenses. Those interested can contact Carol Corey at 1-574-772-5567, or e-mail her at cscorey@kconline.com ■

Outdoors Tales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

Dr. Stokes and his staff operated on Buddy, but the cancer turned out to be a rare, very aggressive form. All of the cancer could not be removed.

We knew he was terminal. Dr. Stokes had his staff were very caring, as was Dr. Thompson where we are spending some time in Florida. With their help, we couldn't cure Buddy, but were were able to provide him with a few extra months.

But by the New Year, it was obvious he no longer had a quality of life. He could hardly walk, let alone run. His little tail that almost always was wagging, did so no longer.

Both vets told us we would know better than anyone when it was time to put Buddy down. They were right.


What is really strange is our older rat terrier, also

has cancer. I would question the dog food or something else, but both cancers were different. At this point,, Augie, who is 12-plus year old, seems to be doing well after his surgery.

In the process of dealing with the cancers, I did learn some things worth sharing: (I'm no vet.)

About half of dogs over 10 or 12 years old, will have some form of cancer.


Cancer in dogs is more treatable than people, because more drugs can be used that haven't been approved for use in people because of regulation.



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Steroids helped Buddy extend his life. He put on weight, but they gave him some additional quality time. After a while, the steroids upset his stomach. However, Pepcid given a half hour before the steroids helped that problem. We also gave him Benedryl, an antihistamines, which helped counteract histamines given off by the cancer.

My best advice, find a caring vet and have your pets checked regularly and at any other sign of a problem.

Although Buddy left a big hole in our hearts, we decided to quickly start looking for another dog. Our children thought it was crazy for us to obtain another dog. Sometimes it seems like we have trouble taking care of ourselves. It is a lot of work and responsibly taking care of two dogs, but it keeps me busy, walking, and happy.

Fate and the internet seemed to lead us to another rat terrier.

A young family less than 10 miles away had purchased a second rat terrier, but their busy schedules didn't permit them to give him the time they felt he deserved. So now, Tyler is part of our family. He is adjusting quickly.

Tyler, a Teddy Roosevelt terrier, never will be Buddy, but he will be Tyler. He is quickly becoming a part of the family.

####

Contact writer Phil Junker by email at: outdoorscribe@yahoo.com

Camping Here and Beyond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26

hurry going south or north invite them to see or visit places in your community. Tell them where to purchase the best breaded tenderloin in the world, the best biscuits and gravy, or to visit homes of some of our famous people who've lived here and made a difference in our lives and in the world, etc. They're in a hurry now but the next time they pass through it might mean business for you or some of your friends. If you're at the big Indy RV and Camper Show at the fairgrounds in February, look up the Indiana Campground Owners booth. We've got a lot of information about a lot of private campgrounds in Indiana.

We'll see you down the road. Our e-mail address is: jmacnut@yahoo.com and cell phone: 260-637-3524. If you have an anecdote or suggestions for articles, just contact us. We'll write it up for a future edition of the Gad-A-Bout. John and El McCory, owners/managers of Hickory Grove Lakes Campground, Portland, Indiana.

WHY BUILD THE DAM?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

follows:

1847 - \$1,000,000	1898 - \$750,000
1907 - \$350,000	1913 - \$4,500,000
1929 - \$1,000,000	1939 - \$287,000
1959 - \$1,545,700	

(All damages estimated at dollar value of year flood occurred.)
Cost of Proposed Dam: Estimated cost as of 1962, \$26,400,000.00.

Construction of Proposed Dam: Proposal is for a rock shell structure approximately 2800 feet long and 150 feet high. Drainage area of 379 square miles.

Capacity of Proposed Dam: 322,000 acre feet; maximum pool elevation 775 feet (M.S.L.); area

submerged at spillway crest level 7700 acres.
Total Damage: On Whitewater River from Brookville, Indiana to Cleves, Ohio from 1847 to 1960, \$11,007,700.00. Damages for 1961, 1962 and 1963 compiled at Louisville District Corps of Army Engineers.
Loss of Life: At least 21 persons. ■

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

works in Franklin County.



Trooper Eric Downey

Connersville Trooper Receives Safe Driving Milestone

Connersville – Connersville Trooper Eric Downey was honored recently for reaching a safe driving milestone in his career. He received a safe driving award for driving 350,000 accident free miles. Downey received a pin to wear daily on his uniform, and a safe driving certificate.

Trooper Downey graduated from the Indiana State Police Academy on 12-13-99 and was assigned to the Connersville District. He currently works the road and is assigned to Rush County where he also lives.

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Blanche G. Stelle

If you were to ask me who was the one person who has done more for Union County since 1986, the answer most assuredly would have to be Blanche Stelle. Blanche died on Monday, December 21, 2009 after suffering a massive stroke at her home on December 6th.

Blanche Stelle lived and breathed life back into the Union County Development Corporation since 2003, she went above and beyond the call of duty working long hours in a tireless fashion which was a trademark for this remarkable lady.

In my opinion Union County officials may find someone to fill the void left by her, but they will never replace her.

I attended her funeral, I wanted to say goodbye to Blanche, she was a true friend. ■

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The Many Faces of Henry M. Stock III

I get many comments about having Golden Eagle (Hank Stock) in The Gad-a-bout. Hank has been appearing in The Gad-a-bout since 1995. He started after he came to Treaty Line Pioneer Village to film a ceremony at Frontier Days with a



Hank Stock (Golden Eagle) and his late wife, Jane Stock (Sky Woman) in a photo that was in Hank's room, I took this photo of that photo.



Brigadier General Hank Stock, yes he was a Civil War re-enactor too.

Indian group he belonged to in 1993.

Hank Stock (Golden Eagle) is a man of many talents. In a future Gad-a-bout I will be doing an indepth article on this man we know as Golden Eagle. He has lived a very remarkable life filling a career of acting and re-enacting.



This picture of Golden Eagle we are all familiar with, this photo I took of Hank at Treaty Line Pioneer Village next to the Praise Auditorium.



Golden Eagle telling Indian stories on the porch of the Quakertown Store in Treaty Line Pioneer Village located at north end of Brookville Lake.

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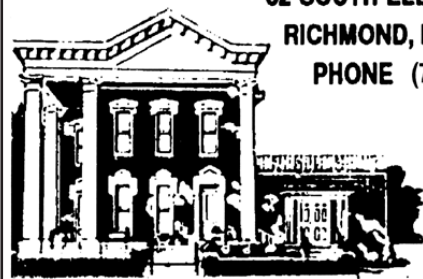
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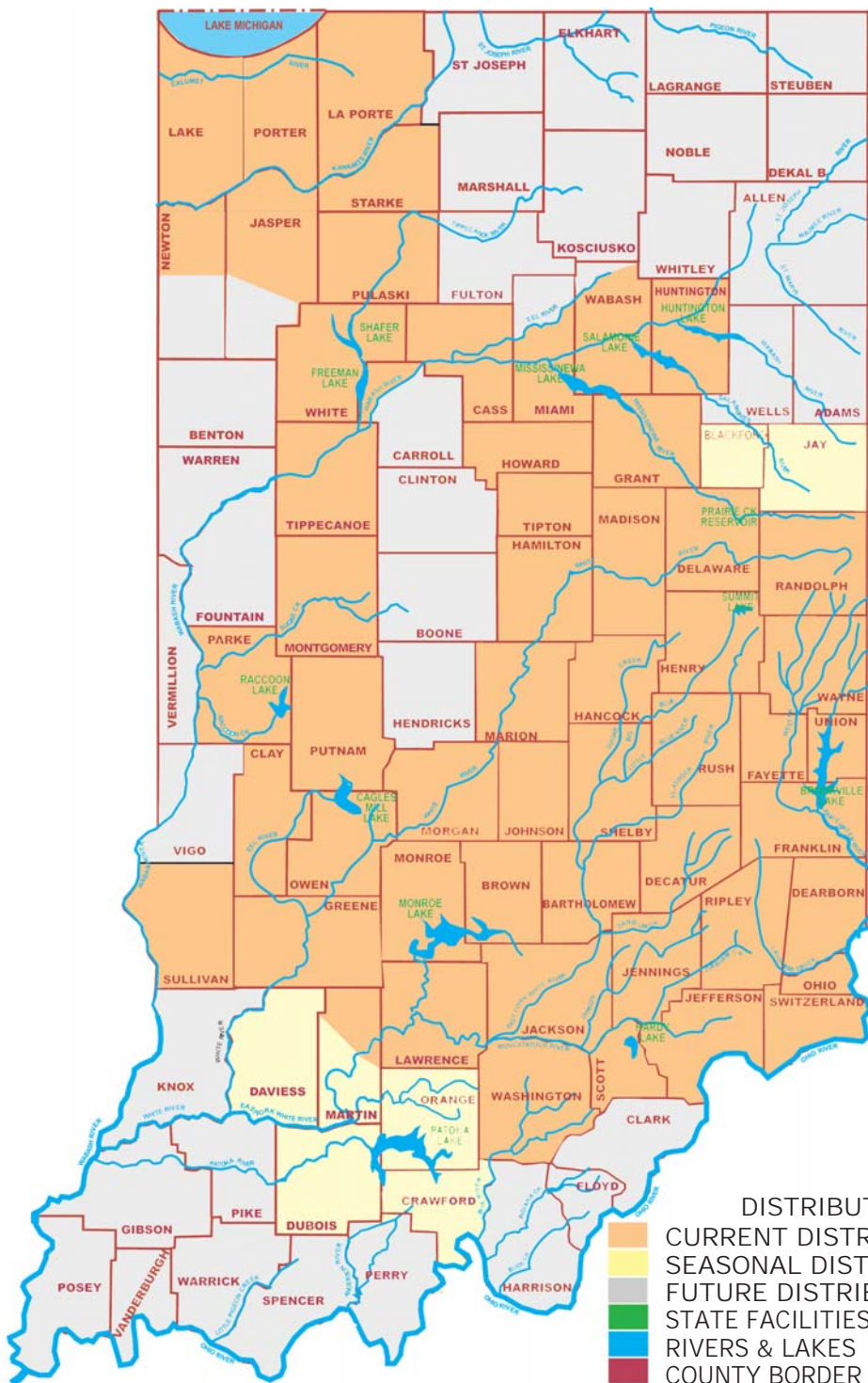
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