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THE COVER PHOTOS

Top Left: 2010 World Predator & Hunting Expo Steve Criner, 2010 All Around Predator Calling Champion. See more on Page 15. (Photo by Alan "Grizz" Smith)

Top Right: Veteran in the Spotlight, Mark A.

Stover of Richmond, Indiana kneeling in front of the Vietnam Memorial located in the Veteran's Memorial Park in the Whitewater Gorge in Richmond, Indiana. See Mark's Story on pages 16, 17, 28 & 29 in this issue. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

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Bottom Left: Photo Collage of Smoke on the Water Barbecue Festival, Car Show, Craft Show and Frontier Days Reunion Rendezvus, Free Admission to it all! **Top Photo** is Logo for the KCBS sanctioned contest and first of six stops on the Hoosier BBQ Cup Trail. **Middle Left Photo** is Sherry Dickerson visiting Vendor at Festival. **Middle Right & Lower Left Photos:** Auto and Truck Show at Smoke on the Water Festival. **Lower Right Photo:** 2004 File Photo of Frontier Days Reunion Rendezvus. Dan & April Rice and Bud & Cyndi Jividen. See more on Page 9, 27 & 31 (Photos by Ray Dickerson, Carl Sharp)

Bottom Right: Dean Howard and Don Wessell from Oberlin, Ohio with two nice walleye of a 174 pound catch while fishing on Lake Erie fishing with Boytim Charter Service located at Marblehead, Ohio. Contact Bob Boytim, See page 7 for contact information in this issue. Visit their website at www.walleye.com/boytim.htm (Boytim Charter Service Photo)

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

IF YOU RECEIVED THIS PAPER BY MAIL DELIVERY, PLEASE READ

The May Gad-a-bout will be the last issue that I send through the U.S. Mail by permit. Due to a need to decrease the cost of doing business I have elected to stop sending The Gad-a-bout by mail and instead place it on my new website, www.thegadabout.com. Beginning with the June issue anyone can go to that website, open a free copy of The Gad-a-bout and read it on their computer screen.

The FREE paper copy of The Gad-a-bout is not being replaced by the internet, the internet copy's purpose is only to provide those readers I don't reach anymore by vehicle delivery and those who formerly subscribed.. The June FREE copy will be delivered to the SAME locations that we delivered the May issue to last month. There will be a list of businesses kept updated on the website for your convenience of where you can pick up a FREE paper copy.

NOTICE TO CURRENT SUBSCRIBERS:

I will continue to send The Gad-a-bout to the few subscribers whose subscriptions haven't run out yet. They will continue to get The Gad-a-bout sent to them by mail until their subscription ends. Then they must utilize the website to continue reading The Gad-a-bout.

2010 MOSCOW BRIDGE FESTIVAL & BRIDGE DEDICATION JUNE 4-6, 10



Top: The Moscow Covered Bridge as it looked prior to the 2008 tornado. (Photo by Galen R. Frysinger) Bottom: The Moscow Bridge shortly after the tornado hit. (Channel 8 News Photo)

Larry Stout, coordinator of the Moscow Covered Bridge Festival sent me information on this years festival. The dates have been moved forward to June 4-6, 2010 due to a county fair conflict and this will

be the final festival.

Late next week they will be lifting up one of the 2 bridge sections by crane and putting it in place on the abutments. Then start on #2. After #1 is in place, they will begin on the floor, siding, roofing. To be completed by festival time, weather permitting. We are having a dedication service on Saturday June 5th during festival, but it may not be completely completed and reopened to traffic by then.

For more information on the festival see the advertisement on the lower right side of this page.

Anyone wanting more information on the Moscow Covered Bridge Festival should contact Larry Stout at 765-629-2892 or gowdy@usa.com.

MEMORIAL DAY MAY 31, 2010 A TIME FOR REFLECTION

We enjoy the freedom that men and women fought and are fighting for today, thousands of times they have paid the ultimate price, with their life, so that we may remain free.

On this Memorial Day May 31, 2010 it is imperative that we take the time to remember the veterans who have died on the battle fields here and around the world.

On the cover of this paper is Veteran Mark A. Stover who served honorably in Vietnam. His story is told in my Veteran in the Spotlight for this month. See page 16,17,28 & 29. The photo I took of him kneeling was on purpose, he is kneeling next to the Vietnam Memorial at the Veteran's Memorial Park located in the Whitewater Gorge in Richmond, Indiana.

Mark's pose is reflected in the memorial and the words, "Vietnam Veteran's Council Dedicated June 02, 2001, Duty, Honor, Country, It is one thing to say it - another to live it, Richmond, Indiana are inscribed into the memorial forever.

Many times Americans have fought in wars, some just, some questionable, however whenever an American wears his or her countrys' military uniform he or she questions not his or her duty, it is his or her honor and country that means the most to him or her, their mettle will be tested and found to be pure like all those who went before them.

God Bless the Veterans of America.

FRONTIER DAYS REUNION MAY 1-2 TREATY LINE PIONEER VILLAGE

Well I mailed out 77 invitations (in The April Gad-a-bout) to former participants in Frontier Days Rendezvous dated from 1991 through 2001 in hopes some would respond and attend our 2010 Reunion to be held on the weekend of May 1-2 during the "Smoke on the Water" Barbeque Festival which includes BBQ cooking contest, auto and truck show, music show, carnival and craft show.

To this date, April 13, I have heard from just a few. Tentatively here is the scedule for the Frontier Days Reunion and Rendezvous.

So far those that will be in the Rendezvous encampment area will be myself, Sherry, Golden Eagle, Tony and Sharon Wells, Dallas Whipple, Mac Keasling, Nic Walter, Allen Miller and his wife.

Golden Eagle can only attend Saturday May 1st. Golden Eagle will be telling Indian Stories from 11 a.m. until around 2 p.m.

Golden Eagle, Tony and Sharon Wells will be instructing visitors in social Indian dancing from 3 p.m. until around 5 p.m.

Golden Eagle will be performing a naming ceremony sometime after 5 p.m.

Other activities including a costume contest,

music, re-enactments will depend on participants. We will plan our activites around who comes and our meals will be based on the food vendors attending the Smoke on the Water Festival.

Of course I didn't have enough time before this event to spread the word out to prospective pre-1840 camps. I will do a much better job for the 2011 Frontier Days Rendezvous which will again be in conjunction with the Smoke on the Water BBQ Festival and Craft Fair. We will begin our prepara-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



2004 Frontier Days Reunion at Treaty Line Pioneer Village. L to R, Sharon Wells, Allen Miller, Cyndi and Bud Jividen, Dan and April Rice and others. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

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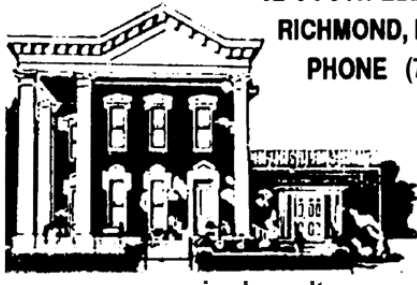
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Talking Leaves

 by Golden Eagle

The Moon of Planting

With Spring here the work in the fields and gardens takes on a wave of busy action, featuring the Three Sisters (squash, beans and maize), I remember well our Victory Garden. We would make regular visits to the corner lot, which had been properly conditioned with black soil and fertilizers and divided among the neighborhood into sections where each family grew carrots, potatoes, beans, onions, lettuce, etc to supplement our diets during WWII. We watered and tended our little crop until harvest time. I enjoyed picking the carrots because I liked to eat them raw.

Maize, corn is my favorite vegetable, followed by the raw carrots. My grandmother, mother and aunt put up tomatoes, green beans, saurkraut (another favorite) and of course somethings I didn't care for like brussel sprouts, spinach, cauliflower etc. I promised myself that after I grew up I would not eat them and I still don't.

Spring is a great time to share with young ones. I enjoy pointing out the flowers and plants picking out those that some particular importance to the native people. This one has roots used for dye, that one is medicinal or makes a fine tea. Even when a black snake drops from a branch overhead its startling effect makes the heart pump a little faster and the blood run a little quicker.

There is still some ice in the creek but the water runs clear and cold like a young child gambling from rock to rock. If the water is deep enough you might even catch sight of the flashing color of a fish dodging here and there as it moves down stream to reach deeper water.

Spring has it's own smell. It is a combination of all the things happening at this time of year. It is a strong smell but yet a gentle smell. It is a sweet smell and yet pungent smell.

Surely the Great Spirit has blessed this season when Mother Earth is preparing the land and the creatures that live upon it for the wonderful seasons ahead. Take the time from your busy lives in the month ahead and take a little stroll in the woods, a park, or your back yard and take in the beauty of Spring.

This was the time when the young ones played their ball games. Boys against the girls, rough

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housing it, bodies against bodies. Touching was acceptable during a ball game. This was an early form of courtship when the boys and girls decided who they would consider for serious courtship during the warm summer evenings to come. No matter how the game turned out everyone gathered with their friends on the way home. Boys with boys, girls with girls, laughing and tired but eager to compare notes. Outside the lodge, mother always had some hot stew or soup warming over the fire. A hearty meal after a vigorous ball game.

It was also a time for teaching the children on the verge of adulthood. Uncles would gather the boys and set out bows and arrows to hunt. They would learn how to read sign, how to set snares for small game. While resting by the stream, uncle would tell stories of brave deeds and great skills of past generations. Teaching them to always consider the elders. Leaving meat in front of their lodge, aunts would work with the girls teaching cooking, how to select plants for food and medicine. They taught them how to sew and decorate garments. A girl's skill with seniew and awl would bring her a good husband. She was taught to care for the little ones and she got plenty practice helping with their little brothers and sisters. The older women taught them lullabies and courtship songs especially the old songs to sing to the elders.

Spring was also a time of danger when young men from other nations would swoop down on a camp, proving their bravery and skill by stealing horses. Sometimes they even carried off young women. Every time girls left the village, they were cautioned to wear their knife in its buckskin sheath.

Answer go the Riddle:
 You are eating Maize (corn).

Enjoy your days of spring and look forward to the days of summer. May the Great Spirit bless and keep until we meet again.

Editor's Note: Golden Eagle will be telling Indian stories at Treaty Line Pioneer Village on Saturday May 1st at the Frontier Days Reunion there. See more on the other things he will be doing for this big event on page 4.

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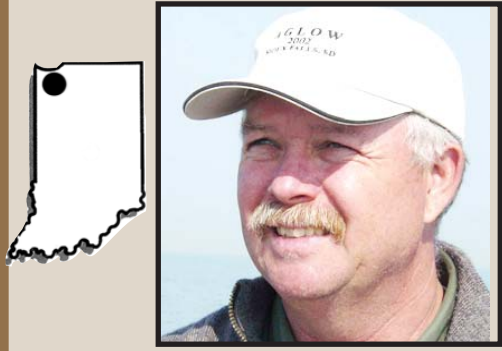
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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

Coping with a TFB

In the last column I wrote about how to identify if your boat is a TFB—a too fast boat. Basically, a TFB is one which won't slow significantly below trolling speed which would allow the boat to troll better in windy conditions or to slow sufficiently to allow an angler to play a fish without fighting both the speed of the fish (which is fun) and the speed of the boat (which is not fun.)

If you have a TFB— and all 5 of the boats I've put into service on the Great Lakes over the past 30 years were TFBs—there are things you can do as a remedy. The cost of these remedies can run from almost free to thousands of dollars. Which one you choose is up to you.

The most expensive remedy is to add another, smaller engine to the stern of the boat. A few models of boats come with a transom featuring a special cut out to accept a small kicker, many outboard models come with transoms wide enough for both the

main motor and a smaller auxiliary motor, other boats, including inboards and inboard/outboards will have to be equipped with a special bracket to attach the "trolling" motor.

I've fished boats with auxiliary motors on several occasions. At best, the small engine made the fishing experience superb. At worst, using the small engine was almost as bad as fishing in a TFB although for different reasons.

The best set-ups featured kicker motors with electric start and both steering and throttle controls which worked from the main helm on the boat. The worst set-ups featured hard-starting and poor-running outboards and the boat had to be tiller steered which put the driver right in the middle of the action zone on the boat.

If you decide to go this route, consider how much space is available on the boat. The space required by a spare gas tank can be an annoyance on some boats. A better solution is to use a spare motor which can siphon fuel from the main tank. Oil injection engines and 4-cycle outboards make this an easy option, these days.

BAGS AND BUCKETS

Another solution to slow a TFB is to deploy a parachute or two. In the case of a boat, the 'chute is a sea anchor which brakes the boat down to speed. The best set-ups for sea-anchor systems actually employ a pair of sea anchors. One is set on the port side the other on the starboard. I've seen guys use one sea anchor off the stern, but I always wondered how many lost fish were caused by their rig and how many hook-holes were in the material.

A good sea anchor—and you'll want a good sea anchor if you are going to use it on a daily basis—is expensive. Times that by 2 and hope the ones you buy are the right size.

Once deployed—the anchors should attach forward and extend no farther astern than amidships.

Trolling and fishing with the anchors is effortless but you do have to contend with sopping wet anchors on board for the trip back to the dock and have a storage area for them when not in use.

I've seen anglers substitute a pair of 5 gallon buckets for sea anchors. If it works for them, great. I would imagine the weak link in the system would be the wire bail on the bucket and I'd guess even a plastic bucket constantly working alongside the boat would eventually wear on the boat's gelcoat or paint.

TROLLING PLATES

Trolling plates are those flaps which attach to the lower unit of the outboard or outdrive and partially cover the propeller, deflecting much of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

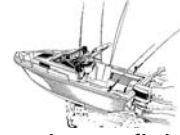


Jim Soukup from Sioux City, Iowa caught this king last spring on the author's boat which is no longer a TFB. (Photo by Mike Schoonveld)

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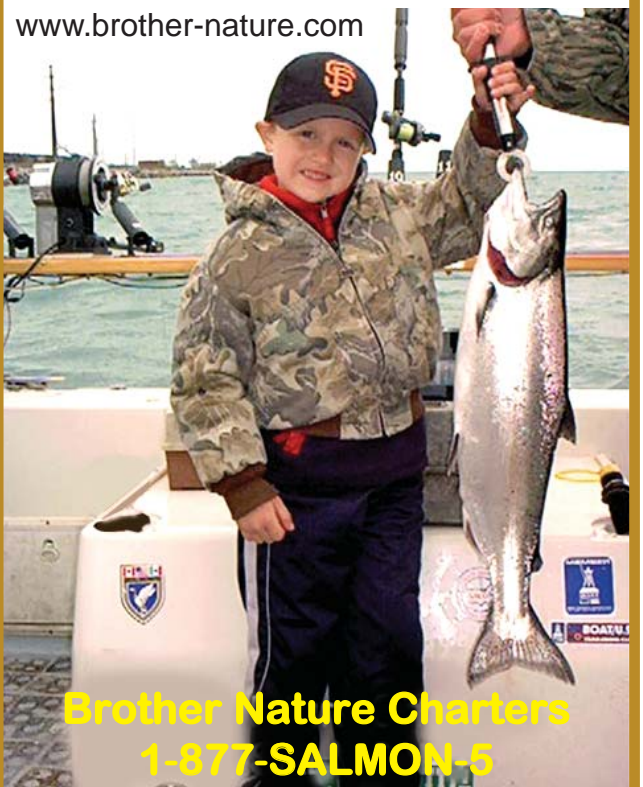
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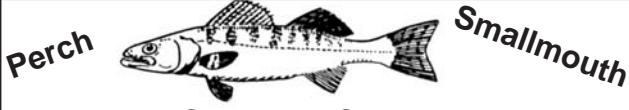
by **Tag Nobbe**
 Professional Fishing Guide

the bank you can use rubber worms, real worms, crank baits, surface baits, buzz baits, spinner baits and the list goes on. But my favorite is a real worm on a weed less hook or on a jig. Just cast it let it settle to the bottom and slowly move it and pause it till you get bit, trust me it will happen.

Striped Bass: Use chubs, shiners or shad under a bobber or behind a planerboard move them through the water with your boat very slow so as to not drown the bait by pulling it to fast, or you can cast buck tail jigs or surface lures. Just remember to think big because stripers are big and strong. Fish from Fairfield causeway to the dam. I have caught them everywhere in between.

Walleye: The very best bait is night crawlers big ones, little ones, fat ones, skinny ones it doesn't seem to matter. Location and presentation is one of the keys along with color or the lack of it. If you have a cold front move in after a worm spell a night crawler hook and a sinker is your best bet. But if the weather is stable a jig and a night crawler is the best. Look for areas that are rocky, fish anywhere there is an irregularity on the banks from the river above the lake to the dam.

Catfish: In Brookville lake there are three different kinds of catfish. Channel cat, blue cats, and flat head cats. The channel cat is the most predominant of the three. To catch blue cats look for steep drop off ledges in the main lake. For flat heads look for chocked down areas with a little current. The channel cat can be caught all over the entire lake on the flats, on the shore or in the backs of coves. The best baits to use are night



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How to load the boat in May

May is probably the best month to be fishing on Brookville Lake. The fish are coming out of a long cold winter there's no young of the year bait fish, the water is still cool and the fish are hungry. Think shallow the entire month of May for everything your fishing for.

Crappie: Use a 1/16 oz jig with a 1" tube tipped with a crappie minnow or waxworm. Change the color of the 1" tube till you find which color the crappie like the best. Its always a good idea to have about 10 different colors on hand because it definitely makes a difference and for bait if the water is cold or a cold front moves in to the area a jig tipped with a wax worm is better, but if the weather is stable and the water is warm a crappie minnow is better. Fish in any cove that has standing timber, fish straight up and down or cast with a slow steady retrieve vary your depth of the jig by counting it down after you make a cast.

Blue Gill: Use a small gold Aberdeen hook and a wax worm under a bobber. Fish in any cove around a tree that has fell in the water. The boat docks and the pillars under the causeways are also a good bet.

Large Mouth Bass: There is a variety of ways to catch bass but the best locations are on the banks in the coves around any stump, fallen tree, point, anywhere there is something irregular on




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Upper Right Photo: Nice Crappie, anyone know who this is???? Bottom Photo: Dave Butchie from Indianapolis caught this 16 lb Striper in Sept 2009. (Author photos)

crawlers, chicken liver, cut bait, or all varieties of stink baits. See ya on the water. Tag

If you need more info E Mail me at tag@tagnobbe.com or go to the website www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com or call my cell phone 765-265-3238 I guide fish for walleye, striped bass, and crappie starting mid April till the mid December 7 days a week on Brookville

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 22



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Crappie caught by Obe Duncan. It weighed 2.12 lbs and was 15 3/4 in. long. He caught it on the Salamonie Reservoir. Bozarth Country Store Photo, Salamonie Reservoir.

Crappie U.S.A. Returns to Indiana's Mississinewa, Salamonie & Roush Lakes

Crappie USA Inc., "America's Premier National Crappie Fishing Tournament Organization" will hold a qualifying event on Indiana's Mississinewa, Salamonie and J. Edward Roush Lakes **May 15, 2010**. Anglers will be fishing for a 7-fish limit of crappie, which could net them a check along with the opportunity to advance to the Cabela's Crappie USA Classic, the most prestigious event in crappie fishing today. This year's classic will be held on Alabama's Pickwick/Wilson Lakes.

Registration and Seminar

A pre-tournament seminar will be held on Friday evening at the National Guard Armory on Zahn Street in Huntington. Sign up will begin at 5:00pm with the meeting and a National Sponsor Field Test Product Drawing starting at 7:00pm local time. This seminar is open to the public. For those not fishing the event, we encourage you to come out to this meeting and meet the top crappie anglers in the region.

The Weigh In Site

The tournament weigh-in will be held on Saturday the 15th at the Salamonie State DNR Ramp, (Mt. Etna Ramp) beginning at 3:00pm. We are looking for a great weigh-in on these 3 bodies of water, which is known for excellent springtime crappie action. This is the perfect opportunity for non-competitors to come and learn how the big ones are caught. Interviews of the top 5 teams will be conducted after the weigh in.

Sponsor and Host Lodging Site

The Huntington and Wabash County CVB's would like to welcome all Crappie USA anglers and their guest to the area and hope they take the opportunity to enjoy the many attractions in the area. For more information on the area call: Huntington County at: **800-848-4282** or visit their website at: www.visithuntington.org. For Wabash

PLEASE VISIT THE GAD-A-BOUT ADVERTISERSON THIS PAGE WHILE PARTICIPATING IN THIS CRAPPIE TOURNAMENT

County call: **800-563-1169** or visit their website at: www.wabashcountycvb.com. Host lodging for the event will be the Huntington Inn, 2998 West Park Drive in Huntington. For reservations call: **260-359-8989**. Rooms maybe limited so make your reservations early and mention Crappie USA.

How to Enter

You can enter our tournaments by filling out and sending in an entry form or by registering on our website at www.crappieusa.com before the deadline listed on the form. Teams may also enter at the pre-tournament seminar on Friday night. All late entries will be subject to a \$20.00 late fee.

ACA membership is required to fish in our tournaments and a space is provided on our entry form for you to become a member. Teams may consist of one or two partners. Teams may have a third partner if third partner is under the age of 16. Pole limits for three-partner teams will be the same as two-partner teams.

Entry fees in all qualifying tournaments are \$100.00 per team in the Amateur Division and \$200.00 in the Semi-Pro Division. There is an optional \$10.00 (Per Team) Big Fish Pot. All participants must be a member of the American Crappie Association to fish in these events. American Crappie Association membership is \$25.00 for adults and \$10.00 for spouse and youth memberships. Each membership will include a subscription to the official publication of Crappie USA, one of the top crappie fishing publications in the nation.

Crappie USA "Free Crappie Kids Rodeo"

Held in conjunction with the tournament will be the Crappie Kids Fishing Rodeo to be held Saturday morning at the Salamonie State DNR Ramp, (Mt. Etna Ramp). Sign up for the Kids Rodeo will be at 8:00am with the rodeo from 9:00am till 11:00am. The Crappie USA Kids Fishing Rodeo is a chance for children of the area to get out and enjoy nature, do a little fishing and win some prizes. The event is free to all children 12 and under with all participants eligible for a chance to win one of the six, Crappie USA \$2,000.00 scholarships to be awarded at the Cabela's Crappie USA Classic.

Crappie USA and our anglers have contributed nearly \$270,000.00 to the "Crappie Kids" Scholarships since 1997. We are very proud to be a part of the education process for the youngsters who participate in our tournaments as adult/youth

teams and those who fish in the Crappie USA "Kids Fishing Rodeos".

The Crappie Kids Free Fishing Rodeo has grown in many cities to be a major attraction drawing as many as 350 or more children from surrounding areas to compete for prizes and the chance at the \$2,000.00 "Crappie Kids" Scholarship. All participating children must be accompanied by an adult.

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 BBQ Contest (Sunday afternoon)

Restrictions:
 Please, No: Animals (except working guide/leader dogs), Alcohol, Used Clothing Sales, Bicycles, or Golfcarts (except for event organizers) will be allowed on the premises. (Personal mobility carts will be allowed.)

To Find Forms And all the activities go to Smokin' website
www.libertyindianalions.com/liberty_lions_club/Smoke_on_the_Water.html

For Questions:
 Contact Carl Sharp at 765-458-5574 (office), or 765-580-0215 (cell) or email at:
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The Liberty Lions Club's
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- Rinky Dink Smokers - Rick Callahan - Greensburg, IN
- Rolling Smoke BBQ - Jim Ferguson (Ohio Vet) - Fairborn, OH
- Shigs in Pit - Stefan Kelley - Fort Wayne, IN
- Shorty's Pit Stop BBQ - Jeff Short - Delaware, OH
- Smoky River BBQ - Roger Mogg - Spiceland, IN
- Stink-Eye BBQ - Bob Rothrock - Indianapolis, IN
- Thin Blue BBQ - Brian Herbert - Franklin, IN
- Grumpy's BBQ - Mike Wagner - Greenville, OH

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News from the Indiana State Police



by Sgt. John D. Bowling

Citizens BEWARE! Watch for Meth Trash

With spring weather here people are outside mushroom and turkey hunting, hiking and walking. The potential exists that some people may come across trash left behind by those who have manufactured methamphetamine (meth). The Indiana State Police Meth Suppression Section wants to remind citizens that this trash may contain chemicals that are toxic, flammable, corrosive, and acidic. The combination of these chemicals can cause an explosion, fire or burns if they come into direct contact with the skin. They could cause serious long lasting health problems or even death if inhaled. Below are a few things to watch for when in the outdoors.

Meth cooks are using a variety of containers to manufacture their product. Popular containers are the one and a half gallon gas can and Coleman Camp Fuel cans. These cans appear to be new and have been found along the roadside by unknowing people who believe that they have found a new can of gas or fuel and end up with a working meth lab.

Other items to be aware of include small battery casings (outer metal layers), Ziploc style bags, empty blister packs, and containers like pop-bottles and jars, that contain a granular material. They may or may not have a tube extending out of the top, depending on whether it is a hydrochloric gas generator (HCL) or a one pot reaction. Both of these are extremely hazardous.

Be aware of any type of tank (propane tanks are popular) that you find in an odd place like the middle of a field, ditch line, or wooded area. The valve on the tank will typically be modified in some way to accept a hose and will have a bright blue or green color around the opening. These cylinders are used to steal, store and transport anhydrous ammonia, which is an extremely dangerous gas when direct contact or inhalation has occurred.

Anhydrous is used by farmers in the spring as a fertilizer. Often Meth cooks will steal Anhydrous from the large white tanks used to transport the fertilizer to the field. Watch for any unusual activity around these tanks.

If you encounter any of these items or witness



If you come across any of the items you see in this photo, above, you have found a "meth lab." Don't mess with anything you see, leave the area and call the Indiana State Police Meth TIP Line 1-800-453-4756. (Photos by Ray Dickerson)

suspicious activity, please contact your local Indiana State Police Post. We have a trained team with special suits and respirators to dispose of these dangerous chemicals properly. Any tips, questions or concerns about meth can be directed to the **Indiana Meth Suppression Section** at **(877) 855-METH**. We depend on tips from folks like you to help combat the Meth problem. Tips can be made and kept anonymous.

Spring Time

Time to Beware Internet and Phone Scams

Spring time also seems to usher in the "Scam Season." According to the FBI, losses in the U.S. have shot up 110% from 2008 due to on line fraud. The average monetary loss per case is \$5,580. I personally worked a case a few years ago where the victim lost over \$11,000 dollars "purchasing" an R.V.

It turns out someone had put a fake add on E-Bay that appeared real. Of course, the deal was "too good to be true." As it turned out, the deal wasn't true and the victim never recovered his money or the RV. Non-delivery of purchased items is the most common act of internet fraud, making up 19% of all losses.

Then there is the phone scam that targets grandparents, with the subject calling the victim stating he is a grandson. He says he is in trouble in Canada and needs cash wired right away. The caller has done their homework and knows the correct names to use. The "trouble" calls have ranged from being arrested to being hurt in a car crash and needing money for treatment.

Investigators warn would be victims to always call relatives to check up on the situation-even when the caller tells you not to. Never wire money without verifying the situation with relatives. Victims have lost several thousand dollars to this scam.

Another popular scam is the "Nigerian Bank Scheme," where the victim is sent an email and asked to send money to get a larger sum of money

back. While that may not make sense to you and me, people fall for it every day. NEVER give your personal information to anyone who calls or emails and asks for it. Finally, always remember, like momma and daddy taught us, if the deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

In 2009 the IC3 website received 1,388 complaints with an Indiana connection. This means that either the victim or suspect resides or works in Indiana. If you feel you've been a victim, the website for a complaint is www.ic3.gov, or you can call your local State Police Post.

Thanks again for reading the article this month and allowing all of us to serve all of you. If you have a question about a law, or what we do, or how we do it, feel free to contact me at jbowling@isp.in.gov. Be safe out there and I will look forward to talking to you next month.

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with Ray McCune

Food for a Spring Campout or Usin' up some of that Deer Meat

You have a freezer full of deer meat, the hunting season is over, and you're not allowed to kill anything except groundhogs (of which there is no season in Indiana). Let's hone in on what would be good to take, fix, prepare, or cook on a spring campout when there's still a chill in the air and hot food is in demand after a long day of hunting mushrooms or fishing for trout.

Dig down in that chest freezer and get the oldest packages of venison and build your menu around them. For stews or soups figure at least one-quarter pound of stew meat or deer burger per person and for steaks, chops, ribs, or back straps allow one half to a full pound of meat per person. Take into consideration what vegetables and extras you will be serving with the meal.

BOY SCOUT SLOPPY JOE'S
 (My own scouts named this Sloppy Joanne's in honor of my wife.)

- 5 lbs. deer burger (brown and drain)
- 10 tsp. lemon juice
- 2 cans of tomato soup
- 5 tbs. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 ribs of celery (chopped)
- 1 1/2 cups brown sugar
- 10 tablespoons vinegar
- Garlic powder to taste
- 4 or 5 onions (chopped)
- 5 green peppers (chopped)
- 1 1/2 cups water
- 5 tsp. prepared mustard
- Salt & pepper to taste
- Canola oil

Brown the deer burger in the canola oil. Mix in the rest of the ingredients and simmer until all vegetables are tender. Serve on hamburger buns or over toast points. Good served over baked potatoes. This is like the 'other' S.O.S. that the U.S. Navy used to serve aboard my ship when I was in the service except I think they used mystery meat instead of deer burger. They also served chipped beef and gravy as another type of S.O.S.

Want to really save time? Brown the meat, stir in a (15.5 oz.) can of Manwich, heat through and serve on hamburger buns. This may not be as good as the 'from scratch' variety but it is quick. To each his own.

VENISON STEW
 (Simple enough; but better use a big pot.)

- 3 lbs. deer meat cut in 1-inch cubes
- 4 potatoes (cut in 1-inch cubes)
- About 1/2 cup flour
- 1 onion (chopped)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 bay leaf (optional)

- 2 beef bouillon cubes or 2 tbs. bouillon powder
- Canola oil
- 1 (2 lb.) bag frozen mixed vegetables
- 6 cups hot water
- Garlic powder to taste

Roll meat cubes in a mixture of the flour, salt, pepper and garlic powder. Brown the meat in the oil in the bottom of a large pot or Dutch oven. Add water and bring to a boil. Add the rest of the ingredients, cover, and simmer for about 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Mix some cold water with about 4 tbsp. of the leftover flour/salt/pepper mixture and add to the pot a little at a time, to thicken the stew. This stew should serve 8 people but keep in mind that when the smell of this delicious stew permeates the campground air you may have unexpected guests so be prepared to throw in another cubed potato or two, maybe a chopped carrot, or an extra onion or two. There are many ways to stretch this stew out to accommodate more people.

SMOKY GARLIC DEER JERKY
 (Dry overnight and perfect for a hike.)

- 10 lbs. deer steak
- 1 small bottle of liquid smoke
- 1 large bottle of soy sauce
- Garlic powder to taste
- HOT sauce (optional) to taste.

Cut meat into pieces about 1 inch wide X 2 inches long X 1/2 inch thick. Put meat pieces into a large gallon size Ziploc bag. Mix soy sauce, liquid smoke, and garlic powder together and pour into the bag with the deer meat. Force all the air out of the bag and zip it closed. Mix the meat and liquid by kneading the bag several times. Put the bag on a cookie sheet and put it in the freezer overnight. Take the meat out of the bag and drain it. Put the meat pieces in your dehydrator and dry for about 12 to 24 hours until the meat is just brittle. Cool and store in a closed brown paper bag or put in Ziploc bags and store in your freezer until needed.

MY FAVORITE WAY TO COOK BACKSTRAP
 (Tender Loin) (Anyone can do this.)

- 1 venison back strap (sliced cross-grain into 1-inch thick pieces)
- Salt, pepper, and garlic powder to taste
- Butter (canola oil or olive oil are good substitutes)

Melt butter in the bottom of a large 12 or 14-inch cast iron skillet. Cover the bottom of the skillet with cut back strap pieces. Season to taste. Fry until half done and flip each piece over and brown the other side. Check and take meat out of the skillet when the meat is just pink in the center. Use the scrapings in the skillet to make gravy. Serve the gravy over the meat pieces and toast points or biscuits.

VENISON WHAT HAVE YOU SOUP
 (Modern version of 'stone' soup without the stone.)

- 1/4 - 1/2 lb. of deer meat or deer burger per person.
- 1 potato cut into 1/2 inch cubes (peel if you're squeamish)
- 1 onion (chopped)
- 1 can of corn for every two people (don't drain)
- 1 can of green beans for every two people (don't drain)
- 1 can of carrots for every two people (don't drain)
- 1 can of butter beans for every two people (don't drain)
- 1 can of peas for every two people (don't drain)
- 1 can of tomato soup for every two people
- Salt, pepper, garlic powder to taste
- Canola oil

Brown the meat in the bottom of a large Dutch oven. Add rest of the ingredients and add water as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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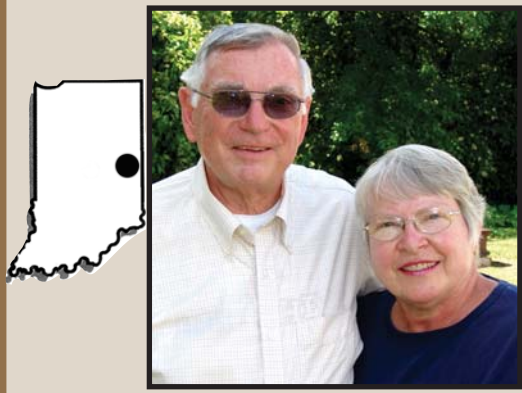
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Camping Here & Beyond



by John and El McCory

Changing Lifestyles....Well Almost

There have been several changes in our lives since we've last visited with you. Traveling around here and beyond over the last several years, we've had quite a few people ask if we would ever consider selling our campground. Our (now grown) son and daughter have settled with their own families, have their education, good jobs, own their own homes and are getting along fine. They started at the campground with their own progressively more dutiful jobs at the ripe old age of eleven and eight, respectively. These little tasks helped them grow and mature with progressively more difficult and more responsible jobs, and they have become fine adults. All through their university days, they would come back to the campground on some weekends and help and especially on the weekends when there were more duties to perform with more people around. They realized early in life what a lot of work a campground can be so they've chosen to stay in their own respective occupations and not be strapped with a job that basically keeps you "there all the time."

So---when people have asked about our selling, I've jokingly answered, "do you have your checkbook with you?" In the most recent year as 31 year owners and managers, we've shown the campground to six prospective families who have had an interest in owning a campground. Just this February, one of the families had become so interested that a sale materialized the third week of March. We're now in the "completely retired" mode. We've been asked what we'll do with our lives and free time and our stock answer has been "travel the world twelve months, not just in the winter."

In planning a cruise a few years back, El contacted a travel agent and started to plan a rather interesting trip on a mail train up the coast of Norway and then back by cruise ship into and our of the fjords, back to the place we had started during the month of November. The agent said it would be difficult to see a lot of the sites in the north because it's rather dark up there in the winter. Now we can go up in the summer in full light.

So much more can be done in the summer with safer driving (no icy highways, warmer camping and cruising, more time to enjoy camping near home without the encumbrances of stopped up sewers, someone backing into and breaking a campsite water pipe and having a "beautiful" fountain for the kids to play in until the whole campground water supply shut off, seasonal campers complaining about an overnight campers' dog barking at unfamiliar noises at night, and pet owners not picking up after their little (what they call their extended family). Probably the most traumatic happening was an early rising camper in the shower, all lathered up at 5:30 or 6:00 a.m. and the lightning strikes the lightning arrestor, fries it, and goes on down into the well and does a number on the pump. You've never seen anyone run so quickly through the rain yelling at the top of his voice, "Help, the water stopped!!!" Yes, he did have a towel wrapped around him. This was on a heavily populated Memorial Day Weekend. Try to get a well driller at a reasonable price on a major weekend.

We've certainly enjoyed the people from around the territory and looked forward to seeing a lot of the full time campers travel our direction year after year. We'll miss the camaraderie but we'll keep in touch as much as possible. We've had so many enjoyable and memorable small events in all these years. It would take a large book to organized and embrace the number of pages to tell as many of the anecdotes we could from memory. I'm sure we'd miss a lot of them.

Upon occasion we've had people, local and traveling, who've been able to keep your attention telling stories (and actually could go on stage with their antics) for hours. Some have actually substituted on radio and television shows with their gift of gab and/or singing or by mimicking famous people. When someone can captivate the interest of children and teens with their antics for an hour or more, and be able to invent new characters upon a moments notice, they should get a talent agent and do this type of work at least part time at parties, for campground programs, etc. Some of our most interesting guests were traveling ministers, holding tent meetings and/or revivals in the territory. Some have left CD's of their music ministry.

On 4th of July weekend we'd have the muzzle loaders dress in their 1830's/40's leather and raise the flag at the campground commons after a short talk on Americanism and a report from a few black powder rifles. One such morning there were people fishing and camping across the upper pond. A black powder shooter had a small 1 1/2 foot long cannon and he yelled across and warned he was going to fire the cannon in that direction. The little cannon fired and bounced and sent the wad about 2 feet out front. But the fishermen set a new world's record running from their fishing site and hiding behind a bush.

One of our muzzle loaders (at our black powder range) would tell other shooters some of the tallest Texas woolies at their nightly campfire. He would have them laughing one moment and in tears the next. He seldom cracked a smile and some of the new shooters actually believed some of his stories.

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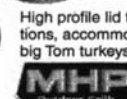
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Hoosier Horse Happenings



by Rhonda Helming

Full Steam Ahead

As much as I was hoping to let you know how my first barrel race of the season went...I can't. I came down with a very bad case of the flu and was unable to go anywhere for a few days! I missed one of my daughter's best runs ever on her horse Ugly.

But anyway, we are moving full blast into our 4-H Horse and Pony season. I was able to attend the State 4-H Hippology Competition at Purdue University with my great niece this year. Our local club has a very strong group of kids who enjoy getting together on a regular basis to compete at the area Hippology and state competition along with some great coaches and parents who donate so much of their time and knowledge. This year we had 28 kids to sign up for Hippology. Twenty-five of those kids went to the area competition and twenty-one went on to state competition. I don't know about you, but I think those numbers are awesome. Our coaches and parents did a fantastic job.

Let me back up some and explain what "Hippology" is and what the competition consists of. Hippology—from the Greek word Hippos (meaning horse) ology (meaning study) the study of



Top Photo: The 2010 Dubois Co. 4-H Wranglers Hippology team. Bottom Left Photo: One of our young teams with their coach. Bottom Right Photo: Myself and my Great Niece at the state competition. (Rhonda Helming Photos)

the horse. So therefore we have Hippology!

Today Hippology is what we call the contest that is used to test the 4-Her's knowledge of horses. Hippology consists of four different parts; horse judging, written examination and slide identification, ID stations and team problem solving.

Things covered in the contest may cover any horse subject. Like reproduction, training, parasites, dressage, draft horses, history and origins, anatomy and physiology, driving and harnessing, horse industry, horse management, breeds, genetics, mustangs, western games, colors, famous horses and history, parts of the saddle, types of bits, feed-stuffs and nutrition.

There were 355 competitors from all over the state of Indiana, each team or individual representing their county. I can't recall the number of kids who went from our county. But we had a great presence there.

The kids never know what is going to be on the test so they have to study all these areas at different

levels. We have Novice, Intermediate, Junior and Senior. A lot of the time our seniors will break out into groups and help the younger kids with their studying. I love watching the older kids come together like this. It means that we as leaders are doing our jobs right.

Our group of Hippology kids started meeting back in January, they met every Monday evening to study together, along with a coach for each division, sometimes the division were broken down further due to the number of kids. It is always simpler to work in smaller groups. The area competition was March 6th; our kids did really well at this competition. After the area, the kids and coaches are still meeting every Monday to get ready for state.

The state competition is held at Purdue Campus. This year was the first year I had attended a Hippology state competition, my kids have been out of it for years. I thought it was really run well, the Purdue students that helped the kids were very knowledgeable and friendly.

As with ever thing else Hippology testing has moved into the computer age. Most of the tests were taken on the computer. The kids never blinked an eye. Kids are so computer literate these days. One of our coaches was able to

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Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

Fishing with new gear

Quoting a line from one of those cheesy old horror movies, I stood on the dock looking down at the water and said "I'm baaaack". I imagined the fish looking up with terrified eyes and realizing that their time had come. Armed with brand new gear, including a fine rod mounting the latest in reel technology and a new tackle box crammed with sure-fire fish killer lures I knew those watery peons didn't stand a chance.

It was the first semi-warm day (followed two days later with 2" of snow) and no doubt the fish were beginning to move into the shallower water of the coves, looking for nesting spots and food. The new gear had been a Christmas present from my wife who had enlisted the help of a friend in choosing what he considered the best in rod, reel and lures. Rollin has been fishing since the doctor first slapped him on the bum and if anyone knows what fish prefer, he's the one. In the box was a wild assortment of tube jigs and Shinee Hinee jigs in every conceivable combination of colors. One color combination in the Shinee Hinees stood out like a dog at a cat show. A bright pink bead head followed by a sparkly white body, gaudy pink tail feathers and a couple of shiny strips of tinsel bringing up the rear. Now I began to understand how Rollin thought when it came to choosing lures for certain fish. This one would no doubt attract the females while some of the others with more sedate and dull color combinations would haul in the males. That day, I preferred female company, so the pretty little pink thing was tied on.

The reel, an Abu Garcia closed face spinner, was a little different than the others in my collection. Unlike an open face bail type reel where you flip the bail and release the line on the cast, it has a lever that is held back with the first finger and released on the cast. Very ingenious. That is, until you get used to relaxing that finger instead of letting the line roll off it with the open faced reel. My first cast shot the thing straight up about twenty feet. A quick mental calculation told me that I had

less than three seconds to clear the area before the missile arrived, so I yelled "INCOMING" and jumped sideways a few feet. Holding the lever a little longer on the second cast slapped the lure into the water two feet from the dock.

Moving out slowly by a few feet at a time the gaudy thing was hitting the water a respectable distance from the dock. That is, most of the time. However, nothing took it after covering a fairly wide area of water. I finally concluded that the females weren't in the coves yet and the males weren't about to hit something that looked like a seventy year old belly dancer. Next came a more sedate thing in basic yellow, black and silver. Still nothing. After going through the entire color spectrum the only conclusion was that there weren't any fish to be had. Or maybe they were too busy laughing to strike.

Undaunted, I waited through a few more warm days and tried it again using a male lure. Immediately a seven inch crappie darted from under the dock and took it. After twenty one crappie and a ten inch bass caught and released the only possible conclusion was that the males were now in the coves but the females weren't. That didn't seem logical, so I returned the next evening, tied on the pink nightmare and caught eighteen females and a twelve inch bass, no doubt also a female. With spring in the air, the water warming and amour in the air it's safe to assume that there will be a new bunch of little crappie coming up soon.

I have to confess that even if I can't tell the difference between male and female fish by sight, it only makes sense that the female would be attracted more to vivid colored lures. However, I'm now beginning to waver as little on that theory because of a later fishing trip. I was invited to fish a farm pond that is normally closed to all except a few people. I had fished it last summer and the action was the best I'd had in a long time. Large crappie and healthy bass on a 7'6" fly rod and wet flies beats lawn mowing by a mile. Due to high wind conditions, the new rod and reel and the colorful jigs replaced the fly rod. The first cast snagged a rod bending crappie and blew all my previous observations into a cocked hat. This fish was beyond a doubt a male because of its broad shoulders, pot bellied chunky body and a mean look in its eyes. And, it had hit the pink nightmare. I released it and immediately caught its brother, another bar room brawler. There followed a number of fair sized bass, but there I had to dismiss my theories because I've never been able to distinguish between a male or female bass unless one of them is wearing lipstick. For two hours I switched from one color to another and continued to catch fish of an unknown gender irregardless of the jig color pattern. Finally it dawned on me. When fish are hungry, the male will eat the equivalent of a strawberry frappe and spinach quiche while the

female will dine on deep fried chicken gizzards, collard greens and cheap beer. But, what can you expect from something that eats worms, crawdads, dead minnows and meal worms? No wonder I practice catch and release. As far as I'm concerned, what goes around isn't going to come around.

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Dog Tales



by Alan "Grizz" Smith

2010 World Predator & Hunting Expo

On Friday March 19th my wife Donna and I were on our way to Columbus, Ohio. We were going to attend the 2010 World Predator & Hunting Expo. It was being held at the Columbus Expo Center along with the Ohio Deer and Turkey Expo. I planned to take in both events but had really made the trip to support the Predator Expo. This is a fledgling event that is only in its second year. I've attended our shows here in Indiana along with a few in Michigan and while I always enjoy them and rarely if ever miss one they are not always user friendly. What I mean by this is that they draw such big crowds that it is very hard to maneuver your way through the shows and see what is there to be seen. I often feel like live-



Top Left: Randy Anderson demonstrating coyote vocalization calls during his seminar "To Howl or Not to Howl". Top Right: Steve Criner, 2010 World All Around Predator Calling Champion. Bottom Right: Author and Les Johnson of Predator Quest TV. (Photos by Alan Smith)



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stock being herded through a barn. And if you have questions about a product or service it can be all but impossible to talk to the vendors. Now while big crowds certainly increase the chances of sales which is why the vendors are there in the first place they are not user friendly. The Predator Expo while having a constant flow of spectators it was never so crowded that you couldn't move or visit with a vendor. To put it simply it was just enjoyable.

The show also included several seminars each day. These seminars touched on everything from calling, set-ups, scouting, hunting fox, hunting eastern coyotes, etc..... If it pertained to predator calling someone was giving some free instruction. While this is not a complete list, some of the guest speakers were Les Johnson (Host of Predator Quest TV), Tony Tebbe (Custom Predator Call Builder & Owner of Predator University), Mark Zepp (Zepp's PredatorCalls), Byron South (Coming to the Call Video series), Al Morris (Hunter's Specialties / Pro Staff) Jon Paul Moody (Reigning World Predator Calling Champion) and Randy Anderson. Randy Anderson's seminar topic was "To Howl or Not To Howl" This seminar was one of my favorites as it was very informative and also entertaining. During the middle of his session he walked up to the microphone and out of nowhere started singing a song about coyote hunting that included plenty of coyote vocals. Even my wife was entertained by this one. I was really hoping to catch a seminar that dealt with the use of or training of decoy dogs for coyote hunting. I'm not sure if they had a seminar on this subject or not. If they did I unfortunately missed it. All of the seminars featured a question and answer session afterwards which seemed very beneficial to the attendees.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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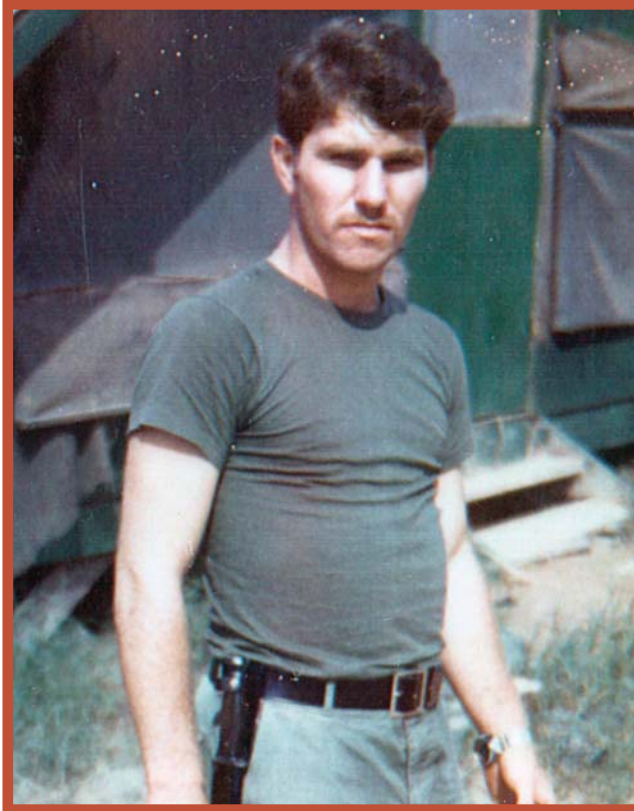
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Mark Stover, U.S. Army 101st Airborne, in 1970 when he first arrived at Bin Hoa, Vietnam. (Stover Photo)



Mark at six months in country. He had returned to base to receive the 101st Airborne NCO of the year award.



Mark in 1990 member of the Honor Guard at the Moving Wall when it was in the Gorge. (Stover Photo)

MARK A. STOVER (Veteran In The Spotlight)

by Ray Dickerson

Mark A. Stover and his wife Tyna live in Richmond, Indiana, they have two sons, Scott and Eric. Their son Scott is in the army and was recently deployed to Afghanistan, this is his second tour of duty there. Eric served in the Army, was honorably discharged and now lives in Muncie, Indiana.

I asked Mark if Terry Stover was related to him. He said, yes, Terry was his older brother, why?

I said, "well Terry is the Supervisor of Utilities in Centerville with the same name so I was just curious. His wife Susanne also works for the town of Centerville. I see both of them regularly in City Building and I had previously done a article about Terry and Bob Stevens who had converted a fire truck into a sand spreader truck for winter use.

Normally doing "In The Veteran Spotlight" is pretty simple, but Mark Stover's story, though I have barely scratched the surface, has been a unique experience.

When Mark was 17 years old he was driving west on Main Street in Richmond, IN on April 6, 1968 in his 1964 red Ford, he had just gotten it washed. It was a beautiful sunny day as he approached the light at 8th and Main. All of a sudden objects hit the front of his car, he jumped out thinking someone on a roof was throwing things at his car, then he saw a huge fireball down the street. Mark drove to 7th street and parked. Instead of running away from the debris he ran towards the erupting fire and utter confusion along main street towards 6th and Main. (Unknown to Mark, Marting Arms located on the SE corner of 6th and Main had natural gas leaking into its basement for some time, somehow the gas ignited causing a huge explosion, the ignited gas then traveled across sixth street through the ground and a disintegrated gas pipe into Vigran's causing the second and largest explosion. I was in Marting Arms that morning buying .22

ammunition. Both the front and back door of the store were propped open due to the rotten egg smell (natural gas.) Mark saw people crying and screaming, some were bleeding standing along the sidewalk, cars were turned over, several motionless bodies were lying still along the street. Then he heard someone say, "that woman she is going to fall off that roof!" "So I look up and there is a young girl in curlers walking towards the edge of the roof," said Mark. He continued, "All I could think about was to jump up on the awning that was on the Hoosier Meat Market, I think someone handed me a small step stool and I leaped from that upon to the awning, then worked my way up a drain pipe onto the roof, leapt over and pushed the girl away from the edge of the roof, she grabbed my waist and hugged me and said something, to this day I can't remember what she said, she was crying and hanging onto me." A person yelled to me that a fireman had placed a ladder up to the roof. Mark walked her over to the ladder, the fireman had climbed to the top, Mark handed the girl down to the fireman who took her down the ladder. Mark climbed down too.

Mark added, "I again headed west toward the explosion site, but the fire was so hot it was burning my face, I was about to turn away. I saw a roof that had fell in and I crawled back under it, I don't know why, I just crawled under this roof, maybe I heard a cry I don't know, and I actually drug a woman out from under there." They carried her away, she was still alive.

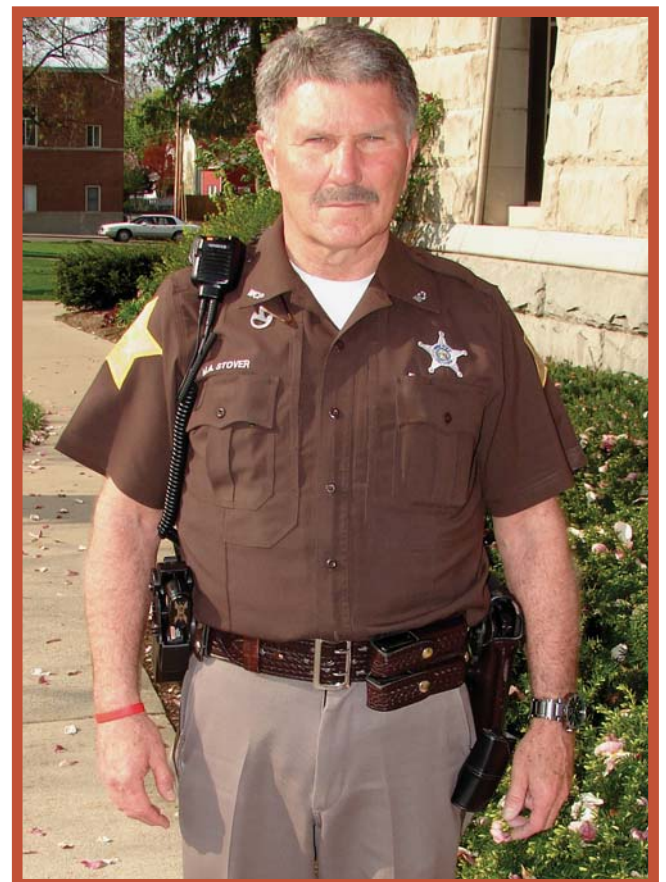
Then Mark said, "I don't know why, but maybe I was in shock, I just walked home. I lived about 6 blocks from downtown. I forgot my car, my mom said I just walked in, fell on the bed and went to sleep." She told him later she took his clothes because there was meat, pieces of meat with hair and blood all over his shirt and she took them out back and burned his clothes.

Mark was given an award by the American Legion for his quick thinking and outstanding heroism that day, April 6, 1968 on a sunny day in Richmond, Indiana. Mark added, "There was a lot of hero's in downtown Richmond that day. It was a day none of us will ever forget."

Mark graduated from Richmond Senior High

School in 1969, he had been working at a filling station since he was fifteen, then he took a job at Natco. He wasn't too sure what he wanted to do as a career, but Uncle Sam had other plans for him, he was drafted into the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division March of 1970.

Mark said, "I was sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky for basic training. Then I was sent to Fort Polk, Louisiana for specialized training, because they knew that most soldiers sent there were going to Vietnam, they called it home for the combat infantry



Wayne County Deputy Sheriff Mark A. Stover, Combat Veteran. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

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Major General Carl G. Farrell (right) the Adjutant General of Indiana, congratulated Platoon Sergeant Mark A. Stover for being selected as the 1988 Noncommissioned Officer Soldier of the Year in the Indiana Army National Guard. (Stover Photo)



Sgt. Mark Stover at left and other members of the unit, they were in the mechanized unit of the Richmond Army National Guard and were out in Colorado, in 1988 they sent them out there for training. (Stover Photo)

soldier. So they got us prepared to go in-country because over the years they had found out that from about 1966 to 68 they realized when these soldiers were sent to Vietnam it wasn't good for them because a lot of them were getting killed and somebody probably said we got to prepare these young men and give them a little taste of what their going to, so that when they get there they'll be a little more prepared. So it was, it was good training, survival training and things like that."

From Fort Polk Mark was sent to California, got on a Commercial plane and went straight to Vietnam with a stop or two along the way.

"We flew straight to Bin Hoa, in southern Vietnam. Got there late in the afternoon, kinda in the evening, when we came in we could see all the lights, we thought, Oh, boy. The plane lands and they trucked us over to a hangar, they gave us a helmet, a canteen and we were told we had to do some guard duty and stuff," said Mark.

He continued, "We went over to another hangar where they had C-130 cargo planes, well actually they were 101st Airborne jump planes, for us though they were just going to take us to our next destination. We were in this little hangar place and this sergeant came in and he says, 'Oh man,' we're all sitting there and someone says, 'what's wrong,' the sergeant says, the last group that just left before this group, their plane was shot down. And I'm thinking what have I gotten myself into, they haul us out and into the plane and off we go."

They landed okay, Mark reported in and the guy there told him to go in the back find a bunk and get some sleep and in the morning they would start him in on a program.

Mark said, "Okay."

The other guy said, "You'll get your rifle issued, your ammunition, your rucksack, food and everything you need to go out to the jungle because the 101st, they were in military region one and that was

up north in the jungles and mountains. And it was really a bad area."

He added, "You'll be here about ten days because they will have to climatize you since you are coming from the states, it's really hot over here, so we want to get you climatized and adjusted to the temperatures, we'll get your rifle zeroed in for you too."

Mark replied, "Sounds good." He went back found the hooch and went to sleep.

"About five o'clock the next morning, this guys waking me up," says Mark.

The guy says, "get your stuff, get up."

Mark said, "What's going on?"

The guy says, "your going out to the jungle."

Mark says, "but I don't have anything!"

The guy says, "you're going, get down to the helio-pad, you're going!"

Mark says, "but I don't have a rifle."

The guy says, "We'll get you a rifle."

They got a rucksack and a rifle, threw it at Mark, sent him down to the helio-pad, it was pouring rain, cold, cause it was up in the mountains, in the jungle.

Mark says, "I get on this helicopter (Huey) and take off, the helicopter is going around, flying around, I look out the door of the helicopter, the doors open and I'm hanging on, I'm looking as the helicopter is coming in and I see all these guys milling around, no shirts on, bareback and this one guys laying on the ground, he's asleep and its pouring rain, I'm freezing and I got a shirt on, the helicopter lands and they say, 'get off,' - I got off."

Mark continued, "I ran over and asked this guy, what do I do?"

The guy replied, "Stand guard for awhile until we are ready to leave."

So Mark says, "we take off and go out and I say to this other guy, I don't have any ammunition or anything."

And the other guy says, "so."

Mark said, "I don't have any food."

The other guy replied, "they screwed you!"

Mark said, "the guy back there said that you would have food and stuff."

The other guy said, "he lied to you!"

Mark said, "so I really had a rough first week, because with no food, I just got tidbits of what the

other guys would feed me and they gave me ammo of course, because they wanted me to be able to fight. It was terrible, Ray, for the first week I was there. Then when the resupply helicopter (actually in Nam we called helicopters 'choppers') it came there.....

I asked, "had the replacements all been sent out there the same time as you?"

Mark replied, "No I was the only one that went out there, that day, because they wanted me out there right away. There were guys getting killed and they needed replacements."

I made a statement, I said, "one of those guys from the VFW told me that the most casualties in Vietnam was in the first thirty days and the last few days before rotating back home."

Mark replied, "and that's a true statement too, I saw that."

Mark said he got wise real quick, he learned how to get things done, one thing he got real good at was setting the mechanical ambushes out for his squad.

Mark said, "Our squad had 7-8 men in it, we were in a platoon of about thirty guys, there were four squads in the platoon. We had with us a Flag Element, that was our Company Commander, he traveled with us. We worked figure eights, we were military intelligence, so to speak. We would go and do search and destroy missions to find the intell that they needed so they could send more troops to those areas. What we found we would send back to headquarters."

I asked Mark, "You said you set up a mechanical ambush, what is a mechanical ambush?"

He replied, "Have you ever saw a claymore mine, it's a large plastic device full of C4 plastic explosives and steel ball bearings, maybe a hundred of them molded in the plastic in the front with a pound of C4 behind them and it was all clamped together."

I asked, "What set it off?"

Mark replied, "You had a blasting cap on a wire and you would put that in the well of the claymore and screw it in there, then you ran your wire back to a electronic device that you would squeeze and when you would squeeze that it would send a charge down

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Trap Lines



by Jack Turner, Jr.

Conventions & Rendezvous The Trappers Get-away

In most states the legal fur trapping season is over by the end of February. And for many like me, waiting for next season (October or November) is the equivalent of waiting for Christ's return. But take heart, it'll come soon enough.

Last month I discussed things trappers can do in the spring and summer to prepare for the next trapping season. One of the things that I mentioned was to attend trapping conventions.

I attended my first Ohio State Trapper's Association Convention in 1994 (Bellefontaine) and my first National Trapper's Association Convention in 1995 (Mansfield, Ohio). Having been a trapper for just a few seasons, I was anxious to see what the advertised, and much chatted about, hoopla was all about. I was also anxious to see in person those frequently mentioned and read about trappers that appeared in trapping

publications such as Fur-Fish-Game, The Trapper & Predator Caller, The Buckeye Trapper and Fur Taker magazine.

What did I see and experience at these and future conventions? Read on.

My personal highlight at each convention is to meet and chat with other trappers. During my first few years as a trapper I purchased many videos and books on the subject of trapping. I also subscribed to several magazines. Those frequently published authors and the producers of those videos became my first trapping mentors. They included Charles Dobbins, Hal Sullivan, Tom Miranda and Mark June. Obviously, these were the men that headed my list of trappers I wanted to meet and chat with. I did hook up with these fellows and many others well-known to the trapping industry such as Carroll Black, Kermit Stearns (d), Al Perry (d), Major Boddicker, Pete (d) & Ron Leggett, Jeff Robinson, and J.C. Conner.

Another reason that I go to conventions is to purchase trapping supplies. The number of trapping supply dealers that set up booths at conventions and rendezvous varies from year to year, but there are always plenty of booths to find what you

will need for the trapline. In addition to dealer booths, there are always a fair number of trappers that sell new and used supplies at tailgate spots. One never knows ahead of time what he will find at tailgate locations or what kind of deals that can be made. Over the years I have seen many different items such as traps, lures, furs, deer antlers, turtle shells, honey, magazines, guns, fishing items, old hunting licenses, old trapping supply catalogs, arrowheads, etc.

A third reason trappers gather at conventions & rendezvous is to watch demonstrations put on by well-known and respected trappers. It's okay to read information in magazines, but many trappers find it easier to learn trapping methods by actually seeing the sets being made before their very eyes. This hands-on approach has helped many beginner and small-line trappers jump start their success. The demos generally last forty-five minutes to one hour and seating is available.

At every Ohio State Trapper's Convention (and many other conventions) it is not uncommon for trappers to gather indoors one evening to take part in an auction. New and used items are donated by trappers to be auctioned off and the monies collected go toward supporting state and national associations. These auctions over the years have not only been a place to pick up some bargains, but have been a great source of entertainment.

After the dealer booths shut down, the auctions & business meetings are over and day fades to night, one campsite is often host to providing music, conversation and laughter. Over the years, I have seen as many as twenty to thirty trappers gather together at nine or ten o'clock and sing, chat, laugh and wet their whistle until well after midnight. I recall one convention where the echoes of music carried on until nearly two o'clock in the morning.

Recently I was able to get in touch with Jessie Melton, President of the Indiana Chapter of the Fur Takers of America to discuss this year's FTA National Rendezvous. The rendezvous will be held Thursday, June 10 thru Saturday, June 12 at the Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds in Columbus, Indiana. Demonstrations scheduled include those about trapping; predator calling; root, bark & herb collecting; wild crafting; turtle cleaning and Dutch oven cooking. Contests include barefoot bear trap setting; ladies skillet toss; trap speed setting (all ages) and trap set making. There will be a fish fry all three days and a hog roast on Saturday night. Fried turtle will be available Saturday following a demo by Jerry Schilling. Admission is \$10 a day for two people or \$25 for two for the weekend. Hotels and camping are available for lodging. Mr. Melton expects 2500-3000 people to be in attendance.

I plan on being present at the FTA National Rendezvous on Friday & Saturday as a representative for the Gad-A-Bout. This will be my first FTA event.

Later this summer, the National Trapper's

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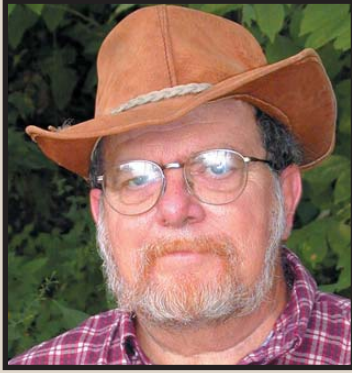


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Outdoors Tales



by Phil Junker

Shellcrackers fun to catch and eat

There is an old saying -- There is a reason they call it fishing. If you caught a fish with every cast, they'd call it catching.

I fall back on this one a lot. I do a lot of fishing and not much catching. It's fun to catch fish, but not something that worries me. I have a great time fishing, and the catching is just a bonus. However, once in a while I hit it right and get into the catching.

One morning in late March was one of those days when the catching seemed to outweigh the fishing. It was truly a memorable day when I fished and caught shellcrackers (red ear) with my friend Dennis Daniels. Fishing in another boat a few feet away was Bob Brown of Rush County, his grandson, Calieb, who plays football for Rushville, and Jerry Starke, also from Rush County.

We all were in Florida trying to get away from the tough Hoosier winter.

In Indiana, most people call shellcrackers redear sunfish. Anglers in some areas of the south also call them chinquapin, stump knockers, yellow bream or strawberry bream, but all are redear sunfish (*Lepomis microlophus*). By whatever name, they grow big, fight hard and taste great when fried.

Most full-grown shellcrackers run eight to 11 inches and weigh 3/4 to one pound. The world record is five pounds,

seven ounces, and while our recent outing on Lake Kissimmee, Florida, didn't produce any fish close to the world record, many fish over a pound were taken.

Shellcrackers are light green to brown on the back with darker spots, fading to gray or silver sides. The belly from head to tail is light yellow to white. The ear flap has a red or orange spot which gives the fish its northern name, redear sunfish.

We fished Lake Kissimmee, a large lake of nearly 35,000 acres in the Kissimmee River chain of lakes. It is well-known for largemouth bass, crappie, and shellcrackers.

The big, shallow lake has hundreds of acres of lilly pads, and that's where the shellcrackers move for a few days usually in February and March. However for some reason, the crackers only move into a couple of specific patches about the size of a football field. In the rest of the pads, the fish are few and far between.

Yet where they are, you can see the lilly pads moving as the big crackers bump into the stems.

Several dozen boats packed into the small area where we fished, but everyone was courteous and everyone caught fish.

All used long poles, many 10 to 12-foot in length. I rigged the line with a crappie size Daiichi Bleeding Bait hook with a long shank. About four inches above the hook was a small split shot, and I used a slip bobber.

The key seemed to be getting the red worm or wiggler on the bottom. If not, the fish seemed to ignore the bait.

The bobber was placed so it was partially standing upright and a slight nibble or bump on the bait would cause the bobber to move. Often the bite was light, while other times the fish hit hard and took off with the bobber. The hook had to be set quickly, or the fish would wrap the line around a lilly pad.

The pads are very strong and a wrapped line resulted in a broken line as you didn't want to pull the boat to the hook location.

The spawn takes place from late February in Florida through April in Kentucky and Indiana, depending on water temperature and other conditions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27



Boats crowd into a small area of lilly pads to catch shellcrackers at Lake Kissimmee in Florida. When the shellcrackers are hitting, limits of 50 fish are not uncommon. (Photo by Phil Junker)

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Big Game Hunting



by Joel Biltz

talk with other hunters, view trophies from other hunters, get questions answered, and get general hunting information. This is a real informative website and the members are all great people. It does not cost anything to become a member, just log on to their website (www.antler-talk.com), complete the registration. This is a great place to meet new friends with a common interest we all share, Hunting and the Great Outdoors!

I am also pleased to announce that I have joined the Field Shooting Staff for Athens Archery. Athens Archery is a newer up and coming archery company that is located in Rochester, Indiana. They make four different bows. The Protégé designed for youth/kid use, the Accomplice 32" and 34" ATA, the Exceed which is 37" ATA.

All bows are built with Barnsdale limbs, the best in the industry and America's best bow strings. All three models are rated at 330 FPS and have a 7" brace height. Athens also have a line of accessories called "The Alpha Line" which consist of a quiver, sight, rest, bowhook, and a string dampner. I am proud to be a member of this great company. They offer the smoothest and best shooting bows I have had the opportunity to shoot. I suggest you take a look at them. You can visit their website at www.athensarchery.com

Finally I want to wish all of you turkey hunters good luck this year. By the time you are reading this, the season should be here. Be safe and kill a big ole' long beard! If you need any more information for Sand Creek Archery, The Big 4 archery schedule, www.antlertalk.com, or Athens Archery feel free to email me at joel-biltz@etczone.com

Until next time, Hunt Hard and Hunt Smart!

Shooting at Sand Creek Archery

The spring is upon us and its time to go into the woods shed hunting, planning food plots, thinking about turkeys, and starting to shoot 3-D again. Two weeks ago I made the hour and fifteen minute drive to Scipio, Indiana to shoot my first 3-D shoot of the year at Sand Creek Archery. Sand Creek Archery is located between North Vernon and Columbus, Indiana. Sand Creek Archery joined the Big 4 Archery Club this year replacing Coon Hunter's Club from Batesville, Indiana. S.C.A. is spread out over eighty acres along a beautiful creek bottom. There are thirty targets ranging from elk to turkeys. The course was well thought out, safe, and I found it to be just challenging enough to make it fun. The range had a great practice range to get warmed up and plenty of parking. The folks at S.C.A. also run a hunting based website (www.antlertalk.com) which is a great way to



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Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino



Less can be more when hunting turkeys

When it comes to turkey hunting, I like a classic turkey hunt as much as the next guy. One where I can call as much as I want with the tom answering every time – often with multiple gobbles - to the point where it sounds as if he is about to choke and he struts like he owns the place. The reality, however, is that these types of hunts are few and far between.

With turkey hunting growing in popularity each year, Gobblers run into more and more hunters trying to sound like seductive hens, and therefore are becoming more educated and tougher to hunt. Like it or not, one of the best ways to consistently tote a bird out of the woods over your shoulder is to hunt them more like deer.

By this, I mean that careful scouting and patience will pay big dividends on tough toms. This is especially important if you are hunting smaller tracts of land which do not afford you the opportunity to run and gun, covering lots of ground.

Once you know where the birds like to roost, make it a point to know their preferred hang outs – such as feeding and dusting areas and strut zones. It seems that gobblers get more reluctant each year to come running to the calls. If a gobbler is already in the company of hens, he may respond to your amorous notes with a courtesy gobble– but usually nothing more – while continuing on his merry way. By knowing where the flock is heading, you won't have to worry about trying to call that gobbler in. You can simply get there and wait on them.

Learning to keep quiet is also a plus. Sure we paid good money for calls, and we love to hear gobblers answer them, but try playing on a gobbler's curiosity by calling less

Tough old toms can be a bear to hunt and can frustrate you to no end, they don't live long enough to grow spurs like this without getting wise. (Photo by Joe Martino)

frequently. This is not to say that if you got a tom fired up that you should back off. In this situation, keep him going and call as much as you want. But, if the tom is uninterested in your best calling efforts, call it quits, or at least back off and see what he does.

As turkey hunters, we were likely trained early on to believe that decoys must be packed in our vest before heading for the woods. The truth is that sometimes even decoys can limit your chances. Remember, it is natural for the hens to go to the gobblers, thus when a longbeard lays eyes on your hen decoys, he may be apt to hang up out of range and expect the hens to come to him. Using a jake or gobbler decoy in your set-up will help, but if I have cover around me, I may opt to ditch the dekes. This way, if a gobbler shows up, I can try to make him come searching for the hen he can't see.

Sure, there will be those toms that will be in the mood to play the game and afford that classic hunt, but they will be easy to recognize early on, and can't be counted on. Next time, don't be afraid to tackle the tough ones, instead make it a challenge to learn a new way of turkey hunting. Hey, taking the quiet, stealthy approach may not be as exciting as the turkey hunts we envision, but with certain birds may be your best option for getting to use your deep fryer.

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Ramblings from Da Region



by Gene Clifford

Turkey Tactics & Techniques

Even though crowds are a big no-no when it comes to turkey hunting, hunting public lands remains popular. These lands continue to be at the top of many turkey hunters list, mainly because of their accessibility, and they hold a LOT of birds. In some cases turkeys living on government land far out number those on surrounding private property thanks to the available habitat and land use practices. These birds are very call-shy, and any vocal Tom will be most often worked by more than one caller/hunter. This kind of scenario can be very frustrating to the inexperienced hunter, and at times it could be dangerous. To some extent, anyone hunting on public land needs to have the utmost trust in the other hunters using the same area, so one must learn to hunt defensively.

Here are 6 rules in turkey hunting, you must follow when hunting public lands.

1. Never wear or carry anything colored red, white, blue or black
2. Don't ever try to stalk a turkey.
3. Always set up with a tree or stump at least shoulder-width at your back.
4. Never shoot until you are sure what you're shooting at is a live/legal, turkey.
5. When you encounter another hunter, don't wave your hands or use a turkey call to get their attention---speak to them in a loud and clear voice until they acknowledge your presence.
6. If possible, set up in a clear area where you can see at least 50 yards or more, in the direction you are shooting.

I look for the most open areas I can find when entering, exiting, and moving about in the woods. The better I can see and be seen the better and safer I feel. If I can walk to my hunting spot through an open field so much the better.

Some days I prefer to not even move around at all---especially on opening day, weekend days and anytime there are other hunters within hearing range.

When you've found your preferred site to sit at, do a little housekeeping and trim saplings and briars with a pocket sized anvil pruners. Make at least 3 shooting lanes, one each at 45 degrees left and right from where you are sitting and the last one directly in front of you looking at your decoys. I didn't do this one time, years ago, and had turkeys in my decoys before I could get a line on them because of the undergrowth. Doing this



A Tom turkey

enables you to not be bothered by impediments to your shot pattern. Also, this gives other hunters a better chance on seeing you seated, when you speak out to them.

Timing your hunt to avoid the rush put on by other hunters on these public grounds is the utmost in your pre-opening day planning. Try arriving as much as 2 hours before daylight in order to hike the long way around where you might have put the Toms to bed last night, and you'll even have time for a late morning's nap. The reason I say this is because I did this same thing a few years back and was awakened by the nearby Toms announcing their arrival on the ground, after flying down from their roost. Don't worry you'll never sleep that soundly. On other days on into the season, wait until say, mid-morning before heading out. Most hunters have given up after the first week of the season if the gobbling has been slow or the weather has not been in their favor. Besides, as the hens become nest-bound, late morning gobbling increases as the Toms are always on the prowl.

Lastly, experience has taught me these many lessons about hunting turkeys on high-pressured public grounds. I believe these tactics and techniques can help you avoid accidents and at the same time give you the best opportunity to hunt earnestly, and safely get you a bird.

So You Wanna' Catch More Fish

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

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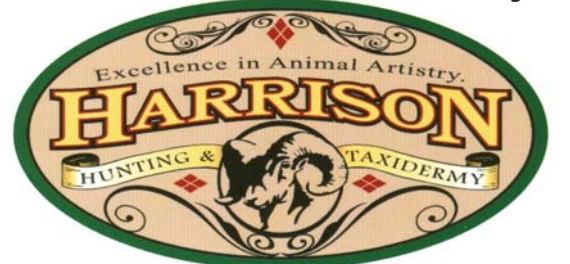
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and that's the news from
West Central Indiana
 by Don Bickel, Forester

Dandy Fish Keeper

On a springtime trip to Tennessee's Reelfoot Lake, three years back, I watched an angler standing on shore, catch bluegills with some regularity near the boat barn at Cypress Point Resort. His adeptness at hooking the bedding bluegills around the cypress tree roots was reason enough to watch, but his method of adding fish to this shore-bound cooler was the thing that caught my eye.

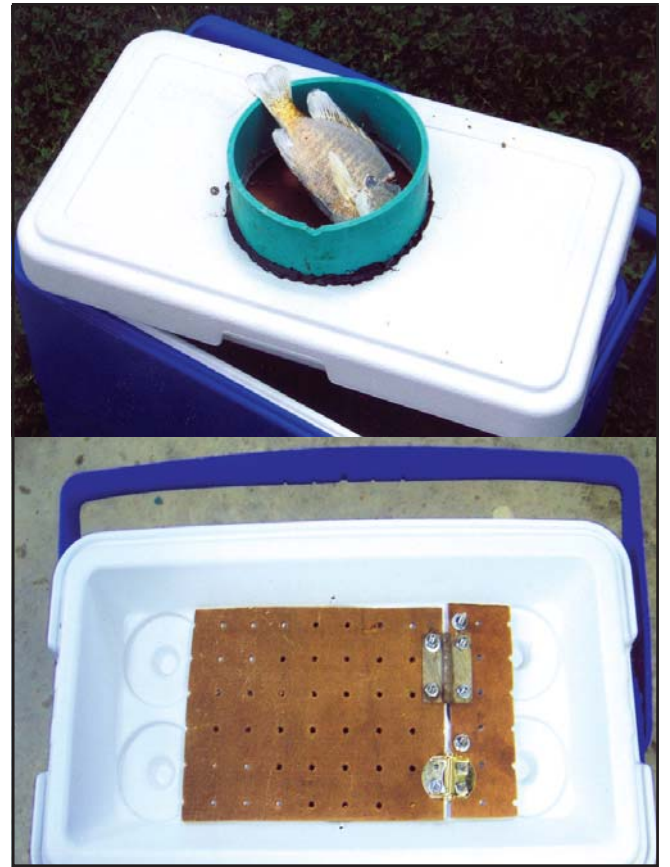
If you've fished from shore or from a boat with no livewell, the question is where to put the fish. There is always the handy-dandy stringer - either a cord with a metal ring on one end and a heavy duty needle on the other or a chain stringer with individual snap hooks. Either method keeps the fish secure, but often dead after being in the lake or pond water and not on ice.

A fish basket works best when used in conjunction with a boat, shallow shoreline water has a depth problem and in the boat, it often means lifting the basket into the boat when moving. A 5 gallon bucket half full of water will keep panfish alive for an hour or two, but if it is a warm day, a dead fish softens rather quickly.

A styrofoam or plastic cooler with a layer of ice would seem to be the best answer to having the best quality fillets for an upcoming fish fry. However, even the cooler has a drawback in my opinion. The lid must be opened prior to depositing the fish on the ice. A minor problem, you say, just lay down the fishing rod, open the box and put the fish in or better yet, have our buddy lay down his/her fishing rod, open the cooler while you toss the fish in.

All this is well and good until you are fishing, as the gentleman first mentioned, from the shoreline. His method-hook the fish from in and among the cypress roots, bring it in and remove the hook, take one step back and drop the fish into the iced cooler. He didn't reach down and open the lid, but the fish entered through a trap door in the lid which then closed keeping the contents cool.

Seldom do rental boats at Reelfoot Lake include live wells, so the next time we fished Reelfoot my iced cooler sported a trapdoor. On Reelfoot, Kentucky Lake or even a farm pond, the fishing can be lively and a minute wasted might be one less fish caught. For my thinking, the trapdoor cooler is the answer.



Top Photo: Topside of the trapdoor cooler. Bottom Photo: Underside of the trapdoor cooler's lid, showing hinge placement. (Photos by Don Bickel)

To build your own, you will need a 24 to 48 quart plastic cooler, either with unhinged or hinged lid. The styrofoam coolers are not sturdy enough for this purpose. Also, a 2 inch length of six-inch ID PVC pipe; a seven inch by seven inch piece of 1/8 inch tempered masonite; one small spring mounted hinge and one small regular hinge and small bolts and nuts (not screws).

Place the piece of PVC pipe on the outside and center of the cooler lid. With pen or pencil mark the inside diameter of the PVC on the cooler's lid. Using a sabre saw, cut out the six-inch diameter circle from the lid.

With the lid closed, center the section of PVC pipe over the lid's hole. Glue the PVC pipe in place with epoxy cement and a rim sealing bead of Liquid Nails.

Mount the spring hinge and regular hinge on one edge of the 7" X 7" one eighth inch masonite. With the cooler lid open and on it's under side, center the masonite flap over the hole in the lid. Fasten the hinges to the lid using short, small diameter bolts and nuts.

The spring hinge should be light enough to allow the weight of a 7 inch bluegill to drop through. And of course, the hinge should be strong enough to return to the closed position.

When fishing, place a layer of ice in the cooler. Set the cooler in a nearby location when shore fishing or in the boat. As panfish are caught, drop them through the hole.

To prevent the slime build-up on ice fishing caught fish, take the trapdoor cooler to the ice. In this case, the cooler works in reverse, keeping the fish from freezing and additional ice is not needed.

This writer welcomes reader's comments at edgeoftheprairie@sbcglobal.net

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Straight Arrow 3D Indoor Archery Range

by Ray Dickerson

Straight Arrow 3D indoor archery range is owned by Scott and Sue Wagner. It is located at 96 Harrison-Brookville Road in West Harrison, Indiana. Scott and Sue live in Bright, Indiana just down the road from West Harrison, Indiana.

Sue leads a busy life, putting in many volunteer hours locally and works for The Hoosier Wall Bed and custom furniture Company which was founded 11 years ago to provide unique solutions for today's home and office, they are located in Aurora, Indiana.

She and Scott have a son, Bryan who is a moto-cross rider and has a college degree in teaching. They have a daughter, Nicole, who loves snow skiing and is pursuing her degree in Culinary Arts.

By trade Scott is a Pipe fitter and Welder, Local 392 out of Cincinnati, Ohio working for Young Mechanical Contracting, but is on temporary disability for a knee surgery. Prior to becoming more involved with archery he has enjoyed a very active lifestyle in moto-cross, sky diving and sea-dooing. Being a 50 year old youngster, he is being as patient as possible until he can return to his more active lifestyle. Scott has been shooting a bow for twenty years with a keen interest in competition and bow hunting.

It was his interest in bow hunting that led to their wanting to investigate the possibility of opening an indoor 3D archery range. There had been an indoor archery range that had shutdown in Lawrenceburg a couple years ago, so locals had no where close by to shoot. So Sue and Scott began looking for a suitable building and found this building which was available, except there was a lot of walls and things that needed to be reconfigured to make it suitable for the 3D range. Scott said they tried to be as "green" as possible, by using every bit of wood and other material they took out, by putting it right back in the building in other areas, which also saved some of the remodeling expense.

As you can see by the photos they did an exceptional job, the finished range is well done. The shooting distance is 28 yards straight on and 30 yards from corner to corner. There are over 30 all new McKenzie



Top Photo: The Straight Arrow 3D McKeenzie targets. Bottom Photo: The Indoor Range at 96 Harrison-Brookville Road. (Photos by Ray Dickerson)

3D targets and 2 Spiderweb target boxes. For the person who doesn't have their own bow they have 8 Matthews Genesis bows available for rent. Everyone can be fitted with the right equipment so they can shoot at Straight Arrow 3D range.

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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Scott and Sue Wagner, owners of the Straight Arrow 3D Indoor Archery range in West Harrison, IN. Lying at Sue's feet is Dexter, their dog, he is hard to see since he is black and he's sitting in front of a black background. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

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Outdoors

With Rich Creason

A Nasty Four Letter Word "WEED"

Just that one single word has negative connotations for many people. They cause problems in your yard, extra work in your garden, loss of yield and expense of eradication in the farm field, and even clog ponds and waterways. For most landowners, weeds are a big pain in the back.

The common definition of a weed is just a plant that is out of place, unintentionally planted, whose bad points outweigh its good ones. This means a plant (such as a cultivated rose) which is desired by one person, may be a weed (wild rose) when growing in a fence row, or woodlot, or other location where it causes a problem.

A weed is almost always thought of as undesirable. But, what about wintercress, pokeweed, and even dandelions which are eaten by some as greens? Plants in the mint family are usually considered weeds, but they make excellent flavoring for teas, and have a fragrant aroma. Many parts of the cattail are very edible, while other weeds are used for making medicine and some are boiled to make various colored natural dyes. Thistle plants are noxious plants, extremely hard to eradicate, and certainly painful if you encounter them on bare skin. But, tons of thistle seed are sold every year as food for the colorful finches.

Many of us also know firsthand that certain weeds are hazardous to our health. Poison ivy, ragweed, goldenrod, and many others cause severe reactions to those allergic to these plants. Other weeds are even poisonous. Jimsonweed, horsetail, cocklebur, nightshade, milkweed, poison hemlock and many other weeds can cause sickness and even death in people and livestock.

Many "weeds" can be quite beautiful. Daisies, sunflowers, black-eyed Susan, asters, Joe-Pye weed, thistles, and even the common dandelion have colorful blooms. Songbirds, gamebirds and many species of wildlife depend on weed seeds for their very survival. Other weeds, such as the milkweed, are a vital link in the life cycle of the monarch butterfly.

Many weeds are useful for decorative purposes. Teasel (one of my favorites) has a large purple bloom in summer and dries in fall to a prickly cone-like top which makes excellent Christmas wreaths which last for years. In Europe and Asia, it has long been used to "card", or tease, wool. Yarrow, either white or yellow, makes a beautiful addition to a dried flower arrangement, as do the galls in many goldenrod stems. Many other weeds can be dried and used with their natural colors or dyed to your choice of color.

Another more specialized use for weeds is to make a 4-H weed collection. Our daughter had three years of weed collections in our county fair and the Indiana State Fair. If I remember right, (it's been a long time) two years were of dried, pressed weeds, identified and mounted in an album. These were common and poisonous weeds. The third year was 20 or 30 noxious weed plants which she had to collect, clean, and mount seeds from these plants on a poster.

As many boaters and fishermen know, weeds not only cause problems on land, but also in the water. Two of the common deep water weeds are the coontail and the watermilfoil. Both of these plants grow entirely under water in depths of eight to fifteen feet. Once established, they grow and spread rapidly and are extremely difficult to eradicate. Neither is bene-

ficial to fish or wildfowl except to provide cover to small fish. While this may seem like a good thing, this allows for overpopulation of stunted panfish. The weeds wrap around the props of motors when boats try to pass through the thick growth and fisherman spend much time pulling the weeds off their lures.

Closer to shore, in shallow water, are the emersed plants. These weeds are rooted in the bottom of the lake or pond but grow on top or above the water surface. Some examples are the cattail, water lily, spatterdock, arrowhead, and water smartweed. Once again, these crowd out beneficial plants while causing a variety of other problems. Anyone who has spent time on the water is aware of the huge quantity of weeds growing there.

Identification of weeds is fairly simple. Some are easy to find in spring or summer when their bloom is conspicuous. Others are identified easier in fall when the seed bearing head or pod becomes visible after the flower has died away. Winter shows us the basic form of the stem and branches without leaves. These plants can then be identified as having stems with no branching, branching only at the top, branches on opposite sides, or sparsely scattered along the stem or some other form. I've always thought winter was the easiest time of year to identify weeds, shrubs, and trees.

If you are a gardener, or were raised on a farm, you probably already know the names of many weeds. If you would like to learn more weeds, and some of the good and bad points of each, go to the library and check out a book or two on weeds. (I suppose persons younger than me would probably go to a computer.) Learn to identify the common or easy ones. Your yard or garden is an easy place to start. Then, take a walk in a field or roadside nearby. Many different weeds will be available depending on the area you choose. Use your field guide to help learn the ones you don't know. A couple of the many books I have on weeds are "Weeds of the North Central States" put out by the University of Illinois and "All About Weeds" by Edwin Rollin Spencer.

Weeds are not necessarily undesirable. Every plant has a purpose. Some you just have to search harder to discover it.

The author may be reached at eyewrite4u@aol.com

Straight Arrow 3D

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

half hour.

Bow Rental - \$5.00 per person, per round. Additional fee if equipment is broken.

Boy Scout Troop/Girl Scout Troop/4-H Group - You may rent our facility - \$100 for a 1 hour session, includes some basic instructions. Call ahead to make arrangements.

Birthday Parties - Leave the mess to us and come celebrate your child's birthday at Straight Arrow 3D. \$20 charge per child - minimum of 10 children. Cost is for a 1.5 hour party, which includes shooting time, balloons, use of our bows and arrows, a cake and drinks. You are welcome to bring other goodies. Extra adult supervision is required. A party the kids will never forget! Call ahead to make arrangements.

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I have been to quite a few indoor archery 3D ranges and in my opinion Scott and Sue's range is well suited for anyone to enjoy. Unlike shooting outdoors it is bug free, mud free, and wind free inside for warm weather and heated for cold weather, giving the archer a way to keep his shooting skills up to par year around and especially helpful prior to the hunting seasons.

For more information contact Scott and Sue at www.straightarrow3d.com or call them at 812-637-2709 or visit them at 96 Harrison-Brookville Road in West Harrison, Indiana. Tell them you read about them in The Gad-a-bout, see their ad on page (page # to be added later).

Directions: From I-74 take exit 169 turn left onto Harrison-Brookville Road go about 1 mile just past Johnny's Auto Sales on your left. From Brookville, Indiana take US52 south, go underneath I-74 stay on 52 (Harrison-Brookville Road to Straight Arrow 3D).

Range Hours are Tuesday and Thursday 5-9, Wed. 10-2, Fri noon-9, and Saturday 9-9



The Order of RED MEN

The Improved Order of Red Men

The Improved Order of Red Men traces its origin to certain secret patriotic societies founded before the American Revolution. They were established to promote liberty and to defy the tyranny of the English Crown. Among the early groups were: The Sons of Liberty, Sons of Tamina and the Red Men. During the Revolutionary War, members of secret societies quenched their council fires and took up muskets to join with the Continental Army. To the cause of Freedom and Liberty they pledged their lives, their fortunes and sacred honors. At the end of the hard-fought war, the American Republic was born and was soon acknowledged among the Nations of the World.

Following the Revolution the various secret



Prophet Malcolm Greene

societies founded before and during the conflict continued in existence as brotherhoods or fraternities.

For the next 35 years each group went its own way, under many different names. In 1813, at historic Fort Mifflin, near Philadelphia, several of these groups came together and formed one organization known as the Society of Red Men.

At Baltimore, Maryland, in 1847, the various local tribes came together and formed a national organization called the Grand Council of the United States. With the formation of the national organization, the Order of Red Men soon spread, and within 30 years there were State Great Councils in 21 states.

Today, our membership has dwindled, but the Improved Order of Red Men works with its ladies auxiliary, the Degree of Pocahontas, to offer all Patriotic Americans an organization that is pledged to the high ideals of Freedom, Friendship, and Charity - the same ideals on which our American Nation was founded.

Fishing Lake Michigan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

the thrust. Personally, I love 'em. Trolling plates are my "go to" method of coping with the TFBs I've owned and I've learned a few things about them over the years.

The first thing I learned was that makers of trolling plates are very paranoid about building something so strong it could damage a lower unit. Models with shear-pins will shear the pins easily. Models without shear pins bend easily. Use them with the brass shear pins if you wish or without beefing up the weak points, but be prepared for a frustrating time since the pins will often shear or the bendable parts will bend even under normal loads.

Better, is to substitute steel shear pins or add braces to the bendable areas as soon as you get the trolling plate. Then, simply remember to lock the plate in the high-speed position before powering up. In my case—on the 4 boats I've equipped with trolling plates (I use the Happy-Troller model) the scant few times I neglected to lock the beefed-up trolling plate in the up position resulted in damage to the trolling plate—not to the lower unit.

Is your boat a TFB? Don't live with it—fix it. ■

KAMPFIRE KOOKIN'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

needed. Throw in anything left over from breakfast, lunch, or whatever leftovers that are in the refrigerator. Season to taste.

Clean out your freezer and treat the other campers when it's your turn to do the kookin' 'round your next kampfire. ■

PLEASE PATRONIZE THE GAD-A-BOUT ADVERTISERS!

Camping Here and Beyond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

He and a few other old timers almost always had "tricks" to play on those who didn't know them well. One was to take some unsuspecting newcomer on a snipe hunt after dark, of course. Another took place at a 4th of July Rendezvous. A group of teenage boys came up to the recreation building and asked for several paper grocery sacks. We gave them several and suspected nothing as we had requests like that all the time. The muzzle loaders had told the boys there was a lot of marijuana in the old orchard and pointed out what to pick. The boys filled several bags of the alleged cannabis and were going to process it and sell it to make thousands of dollars. Being an old biology teacher I had books to identify most local trees, shrubs, flowers, etc., and the boys and I went through and found what they had spent about 3 hours on a hot July weekend picking was nothing but some subspecies of ragweed. The shooters got a big howl out of that one too.

These types of situations are some of the things we'll really miss. Some visitor told some school kids I had tree books for identification. Of course I volunteered to help the kids with their leaf collections. More and more came and I believe the reason is because I required them not only to collect the leaves but also to learn how to use a leaf identification key and to learn uses of the trees from which they collected the leaves. Most of the students had at least 30 or 40 more types of leaves identified than did most other students in their class. I'm not sure they do this activity anymore as some teachers find it too time consuming to grade all the collections. At least we learned a little and most students enjoyed the hikes.


Time is up for now. ---until next month, enjoying full retirement, thanks for listening.

Make suggestions at 15921 Canyon Glen Parkway, Ft. Wayne, IN 46845 or jmacnut@yahoo.com ■


All patriotic men are welcome as guests/members.

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Hoosier Horse Happenings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

get permission from a local school to let the group use the computer lab to get on line and study for some of the tests offered. Our kids put on a great show this year. One of our novice kids placed 4th as an individual, one of our teams placed 10th, and another team was runner up. All these went by age.

Check out our local 4-H horse and pony website for horse shows and other horse happenings in our area: www.dcwranglers.com. We have some great things happening this year at our 4-H Horse and Pony club!! Come out and see these kids work. They are awesome.

As always, if you have any questions at all, email me at thehelmings@psci.net.

Until next month, stay safe! Don't forget to get your trail tags, get your horses vaccinated, and as always check that trailer and truck before you haul!!

DOG TALES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

While at the Expo if you needed predator hunt-
ing supplies there was no shortage of vendors who were more than willing to set you up. If you needed electronic calls, mouth calls, decoys, scent elimina-
tion products, camo or what have you someone was there selling it. Some of the Vendors included The National Predator Hunters Association, Fox Pro Game Calls, NRA, Savage Arms, Fur Fish & Game Magazine, Boar Hunter Magazine, Brush Wolf Predator Calls (Custom Calls Made by Scott Kramer of Ridgeville, IN), Mojo Outdoors, Predator Xtreme Magazine, DPMS Black Cat Express (AR Style Rifles), R&R Game Calls, Flambeau Outdoors, Hunter's Specialties and Predator Sniper Products. I personally left with a few DVD's and my big weak-
ness came while shopping in the Mojo Outdoors booth as I came home with a few new decoys.

The main attraction of the Expo was the 2010 World Predator Calling Championship. Friday march 19th was the World Predator Calling Distress Division. First place ~ Duffey Statler, Second place ~ Tim Deckard and Third place ~ Steve Criner. Saturday March 20th was the World Predator Calling / Coyote Vocalization Division. First place ~ Jason Groeclose, Second place ~ Jon Paul Moody and Third place ~ Steve Criner. On Sunday March 21st the winners from day one (distress div.) and day two (coyote vocalization div.) competed in the All Around World Predator Calling Championship. After a session of some of the best calling I have ever heard, by the top predator callers in the world. Steve Criner was crowned as the World All Around Predator Caller.

Another aspect of this show that I liked was that the celebrities were set up in the show. They were there all weekend and seemed to really enjoy talking with everyone and answering questions to help others be more successful. I personally witnessed several vendors giving kids free predator calls and also taking the time to personally coach them on how to use them. While we all know that the kids are the future of our sport, you just do not see this every-
where you go. This was a top effort to put on a World Class show and my hat is off to all who were involved. I can be reached at agrizzs@gmail.com

TRAP LINES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Association Convention will be held in Marshfield, Wisconsin from August 5-8. The Michigan Trappers Association will host their annual convention on August 27-28. The Ohio State Trappers Association will hold its annual convention from September 10-12. The Indiana Trappers Association will host their annual convention September 17-18 in Peru, Indiana at the Miami County Fairgrounds.

For additional information on these events visit www.wistrap.org; www.furtakersofamerica.com; www.nationaltrappers.org; and [www.ohiotrap-
pers.com](http://www.ohiotrap-
pers.com).

If you have never been to a convention or ren-
dezvous you are missing out on a great time. I promise you that you'll have fun, learn a lot, meet great people and find some decent bargains. And please, never go to a convention or rendezvous without a camera. Take the pictures, shake the hands and talk with others. You will not only create memories that will last a lifetime, but will have the proof many years from now. Have fun this summer.

Outdoors Tales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

tions. The peak usually is a few days before and after a full moon. Some anglers say an additional, but not as large of feeding frenzy takes place on the follow-
ing new moon.

What a day. We kept 42 big crackers, and proba-
bly threw back a like number.

Hey, I'm not bragging, just hope you get the thrill of fishing shellcrackers Florida style someday.

###

Contact writer Phil Junker by email at: [out-
doorscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:out-
doorscribe@yahoo.com)

Smoke On The Water BBQ

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Certified BBQ Official Judges

Dan Skaggs	Floyds Knobs IN
Stanley Wawzysko	Ceresco MI
Keith Yates	Powell OH
Allen Demkovich	Connersville IN
Gwen Demkovich	Connersville IN
Becky Druetzler	Indianapolis IN
Dave Druetzler	Indianapolis IN
Craig Lovins	Milford OH
Lael Lovins	Milford OH
Kent Schuetz	Charlestown IN
Jim Gammons	Franklin KY
Richard Perry	Cincinnati OH
Phil Tempel	Loveland OH
John Ulas	Cincinnati OH
Rhoda Ulas	Cincinnati OH

Non-Certified BBQ Celebrity Judges

Denny Alcorn	Liberty IN
Tim Blacke	Liberty IN
Eric Cantrell	Liberty IN
Budda	Richmond IN
Mike Irwin	Carthage IN
Dustin Gliffon	Brookville IN
Ross Keasling	Liberty IN
Jim Barnhizer	Liberty IN
Tom Knollman	Liberty IN
Johnny Nugent	Lawrenceburg IN
ErikDeckers	Indianapolis IN
Tammy Rogers	Elkhart IN

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

tions immediately after this one concludes.

Okay I'm going to reprint the same invitation and other information I put in my April Gad-a-bout. Forget about RSVP ing me. Just fill out the form in this issue and hand it to me when you arrive so I can have a copy of your current address and contact information.

There will is no fee for you to set up a camp or trade blanket, nor any kind of camping or parking fee. It was suggested that as a group we could donate a collection to the Lions Club for the UCHS Alumni scholarship fund.

Consider this notice as your invitation to this reunion. This invitation is for all those individuals and families or members of a family who participated in Frontier Days Rendezvous in 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994 (both Spring & Fall), 1995 (both Spring & Fall), 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001.

There is a Address form on Page 31 for you to fill
CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Veteran Mark A. Stover

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

that wire and boom-boom!"

He continued, "well I took four of those claymore mines and I actually daisy-chained them together with det cord which burns at 10,000 feet per second. But you had to have that because when the first claymore went off it would set all the others off too and they would all blow up. That was my job to set up that claymore contraption at night so that the enemy couldn't sneak in, I would put a trip wire up and if they hit that, boom and hopefully it would kill all of them. And then I would take that up in the morning, I did that seven days a week. We traveled every day, eight to ten miles, it was slow going in the jungle."

I asked Mark, "how did you get the job of setting up the ambush, did you volunteer for it?"

He said, "Everybody has certain duties and I just got stuck with that one and it depended on what weapon you carried. Like I said you really had to be smart. When I was handed that job I was handed two claymore mines and the trip wire was hooked to a plastic spoon. Well if the enemy came down the trail and they tripped that setting it off, boom. Well I had heard stories that the enemy, they would watch you set that out in the evening because you would set it out just before you went to bed, then they would sneak down and they would find that trip wire and then they would rig it and turn the claymores at you, and they booby-trapped it, when you went to get it in the morning, you would set it off and blow yourself up. So I came up with a device, I ordered a mouse trap, I drove a nail through the mouse trap where the bar comes down and I would run my wire on the nail on the front of that mouse trap run the other wire on the arm of the mouse trap and then I would take that trip wire and get it taut just enough, it would take a while to get it and then I'd set that mouse trap, you know how touchy a mouse trap is, so when they would go to find the wire - boom. I never had a problem after that. Sometimes though if there was a high wind it would set itself off, but that didn't happen too often."

Mark continued, "Another tactic we learned to do was to setup our camp for the night while it was still light, set up our ambush, then when it got dark we would move the camp a ways from the fake camp. The enemy would fire on the first camp, then we would fire on them. Once we wiped them completely out using that tactic. Like I said before you had to be smart. You had to learn quickly, sometimes you didn't get a second chance."

I asked Mark where in Vietnam were they located.

Mark replied, "we were in the A Shau Valley, the A Shau Valley was one of the strategic focal points of the war in Vietnam. Located in western Thua Thien province near the Laos border, the DMZ was there too. The Hamburger Hill battle was in the A Shau Valley. On one of our patrols we walked through that battlefield area, not much had changed since the battle, the area was littered with spent equipment, a crashed chopper was still lodged into the side of a hill."

I asked him how long he was in the A Shau Valley

He replied, "I was a combatant in the jungle for eleven months, about every three months we got to return to the base camp, the last month I was assigned to Resupply, I was in Vietnam a year and a couple of days."

I asked him if he ever thought he might not make it back home.

He said, "yes we lived with those thoughts every day, you got up in the morning with them, I had a guy right in front of me get shot in the head, killed him, we were out on patrol and all hell breaks loose. We got in fire fights and it was just terrible, guys dying, you couldn't make lasting friends, you just never knew who would live or die."

I asked him what kind of weapons did he used in Vietnam.

He replied, "I carried an M14 when I got there, I carried the M16, I carried the M60 machine gun, I carried a M79 grenade launcher, I carried a 12 gauge pump shotgun and when I carried the M60 they gave you a .45 pistol to carry. In the jungle you needed something that would penetrate it, thats why I didn't

like the M16 rifle, and I carried the M203, which I hated that thing, it was a M16 rifle on top and a grenade launcher underneath, I couldn't use it as effective as I did with the M79 grenade launcher, I loved the M79 - say if there were troops over there (motions to a spot) and I was over here I could angle the M79 and shoot it, when it hit it would throw a 5 meter burst and kill everyone in that meter. You could really get good with it, I got good with it. Then they took it away from me and gave me that M203, so I went back to the M16."

I asked him if they had to clear out any tunnels where he was at.

He replied, "no we didn't see any in the mountain area. We did see Punji pits, that was very scary. It was a hole in the ground and they would take bamboo sticks sharpen them and dip them in human feces then they would angle them so when you stepped in them your foot would go in easily, but when you tried to remove your foot it wouldn't come out, instead the sharp bamboo would penetrate your leg or foot, you would have blood poisoning in just a few hours. Fortunately no one in our outfit suffered any casualties from the pits."

He added, "On one patrol I was wounded in the leg. I was taken by medivac chopper to a hospital, don't remember the flight, infection had set into the wound so I was a little out of it. The surgeon who performed surgery on me was a brain doctor, the most I remember was that he packed the wound with some kind of packing and every day he would remove the pack and then put it back in, the procedure was a little painful. I was in the hospital for better than a week. One day there in the hospital I was listening on the radio to my company. (If you knew the frequency of your units radio you could tune in and listen to them.) They were on a regular patrol, they were going to a set up, a guy stepped on a land mine, blew his leg off, (I muttered Oh God), yeah it was terrible, so they were running over to get to him and another guy steps on a mine, the leader says, I want everyone, right now, to turn around and provide security out and watch all around you, he said I want everyone to sit down, and a guy sits on a mine, three guys down bleeding to death, medivac chopper being called, it was terrible."

I asked him, "Mark did you know those guys?"

He replied, "Yes, some of them, but some of them were new guys and you know you don't get too friendly with people because you are only going to be there for a year and you don't want to know them because if you lose them, you don't want to get to close. But we were, we were a pretty tight group, we took care of each other to the best of our ability."

I asked him how long he was out on a patrol before he came back.

He replied, "we were out in the jungle the whole time. We lived in the jungle. Well we came in once in a while maybe every four months they would bring you in for fire base security. I didn't take a bath for three months at a time. We would get on choppers and they'd say oohwhey what is that smell and we would say it was us. Now we did get fresh clothes every five days, that was that resupply thing, a chopper would land, you got water, you got food, if you needed a rifle or ammunition you got anything you wanted, but no bath. You know if you found a stream, you set up security, send one man at a time to take a bath, that was the only bath you got."


He continued, "Fire bases were strategically located throughout Vietnam to support the troops, they had big artillery pieces 155 howitzers, 105 howitzers and mortars. They fired support for the troops who were out looking for the enemy. You're out pinned down by the enemy, you call for a 'fire mission' at certain coordinates and the fire base set their guns to those coordinates, they would send a single round, if it was right on the money you would say, 'fire for effect' and all hell would break loose as they hammered the enemy. We could also call for gunships and they would come and do the same thing, except for them you would throw a smoke grenade out and you would call them and tell them to fire at everything north of the smoke, the gunship pilot would have to call the color of the smoke to verify the target and they would butcher the area."

I asked him if he felt like he had actually achieved a goal while in Vietnam.

Mark said, "When I left there we had really made a mark, we had done what we were there for as the 101st Airborne, an infantry airborne unit, air mobile,

when they had us do something, we did it. We were good at what we did, we found the enemy, we killed them, we sent all the materials they wanted in and they would say, good job. Now we want you to go over here and check this area out. We did that every day, didn't always find the enemy but you went to where you were told, you would say there has been activity here. One night went in the middle of the dark and we said we better bed down, it was getting darker, so everyone is doing their little thing. We get to sleep and we wake up at around 5 o'clock and we heard what we thought was a rooster and a dog barking and we thought, no way, maybe we are close to a village. So we had one of the guys go up and do a recon on the other side of this mountain. He called in and said he would have to wait a little bit for it to get lighter, and when it did there was like a battalion sized NVA (North Vietnamese Army) regiment, a whole bunch of soldiers bedding down on the other side of the mountain. There was maybe 20 of us, we slipped away, never made a peep."

Mark said, "my nickname in Vietnam was 'Undertaker,' everyone over there had a nickname. They carved my name on this big tree 'LZ Undertaker.' Everyone that left there got the LZ named after him, Landing Zone (LZ). And when you went home that was your LZ. I remember that and I'm excited you know, I'm getting on this chopper and I believe that I was actually a little teared up because here is all your buddies, you're going home and it was exciting."



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I asked Mark, "Did anything really bother you about your role in Vietnam?"

Mark added, "It's no rules and that is what always really bothered me was to take a young man 19 years old, put him on a chopper, all his training, my father was a World War II veteran, my uncle was killed with Patton in the Battle of the Bulge, you know I am a soldier, I'm here for my country, I want to do a good job, they brain wash you a little bit in training, you are a killer and for them to take you out in a chopper, throw you out and go kill, they don't give you any rules, you make them up as you go along and we did that. You know I saw terrible things and we did terrible things that I won't even talk about, but you had to survive. I'm not saying I did a lot of things that I am ashamed of, but I saw things Ray, that was terrible, like I said, when I came home I had a couple of friends. they said, well tell me about Vietnam and I wasn't really ready to talk about it at that time, but I went and had some counseling and got myself straightened out and I didn't mind talking about it then. I saw a psychiatrist right after I came home and he made a believer out of me and set me on the right course."

Mark was honorably discharged in 1971. Then in 1976 he joined the Active Army National Guard in Richmond, Indiana, Company A, 2nd of the 152nd, 38th Infantry.

Mark said, "In 1978 the Richmond National Guard was activated and we went to Terre Haute with all our gear, I was in charge of what they called

the Ready Reactionary Team, it was a small group of guys that would actually be sent where they were needed. They sent us to Terre Haute for the coal strike and it was pretty serious. Like I said earlier, they were shooting at the State Police that we were assigned with. So we were to work in conjunction with the State Police to block intersections. To make a long story short the plan was put in place, they were going to bring the coal trucks in and if the coal miners who were striking got in the way we were to take them out with our M16's."

I asked, "Shoot 'em?"

Mark replied, "yeah, if it took that, especially if they shot at us, which they had been doing to others before we got there."

He added, "And that was what the funny thing was, we practiced, you know, within just a few minutes we had to have all our gear on the helicopter and get there in a few minutes, land and take charge, if we were called, it was bad. So we practiced every day, okay how fast can you get it on. We did this all day, it was boring. So one afternoon - boom - go, boy everyone is nervous and we're getting on the helicopter, oh my God, guys were puking, we were going, somebody's been shot or something, so we get there and land, we're spread out, we're waiting, so I asked the Lieutenant, I said Sir, where's the ammo? He said well it's locked in the Commander's trunk. I said well get it out. He said I can't. I said, Why not? We're not to get the ammo out until the first man goes down. I said, well what if it is you? Luckily nobody got hurt, but I thought what is the problem with that and why was it set up that way. It was Kent State, soldiers shot those students, no more live ammo, but when he told me that, you mean one of us has to be killed before we get ammo, what a terrible thing. I can't remember what happened after that, but that is a terrible thing to do, especially when we had Vietnam veterans that day, including myself, I just couldn't believe it."

Mark said, "The one thing that I am the most proudest of, well lots of things, but I was Soldier of the Year for the state of Indiana in 1988, right at the end of my career, which I retired actually in 1994, and this was the state of Indiana, I mean hundreds of soldiers went to apply for this and board for this and I was the NCO of the year."

I asked him what rank did he attain while in the military.

He replied, "I was a Sergeant, an E5 in Vietnam and I was a Sergeant First Class, an E7 when I retired from the military in 1994. You know I did a lot of things in my military career, but that Soldier of the Year, I worked hard for that and I am really proud of that because out of the whole state, I won. In fact they came out to Colorado and told me that I had won that award, they took my picture and everything, which I thought I brought that, oh, yeah here it is. That's General Farrell (he's deceased now), he presented me and was congratulating me on my award of the Sergeant First Class NCO of the Year for 1988. I also won the Funkhauser Award, Sergeant Major Funkhauser was a well respected individual especially in the Richmond Unit."

Mark was honorably discharged from the Active Army National Guard in 1994 at the rank of Sergeant First Class.

Today Mark is a Wayne County Deputy Sheriff working in Courthouse security. He really enjoys his work with the Sheriff's Department, he says they have been really good to him and he would really like to do more if he could.

Mark is also the District Advancement Chairman for all the scouts in the Old Trails District, he approves all their Eagle Scout projects when they want to become a Eagle Scout.

He's a Board Member of the Red Cross, the Wayne County Chapter.

He belongs to the Old Trails Rifle and Pistol Club

Member of the National Rifle Association (NRA).

Been a Life member of the Vietnam Veterans Association since the 80's.

A Life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

He is a member of the Indiana Historic Color Guard.

He is a Study Buddy for the Richmond Community Schools, helping student (s) who are struggling in the class room, you are a role model for

them. He goes once a week to help the student.

Mark's last statement for the record, "I am proud of my service to my country and I am also proud of all those serving their country today!"

I thanked Mark for spending the time with me and allowing me to tell some of his story in The Gad-a-bout. It was just getting dark as we left the Veteran's Memorial there in the Whitewater Gorge in Richmond, Indiana.

Editor's Note: Veteran Mark A. Stover received the following medals: Bronze Star Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal with Bronze Medal Clasp, National Defense Service Medal with 1 Bronze Service Star, Vietnam Service Medal with 1 Bronze Service Star, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with 3 Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with numeral 4, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device (1960), Expert Badge with Machine Gun Bar, Sharpshooter Badge with Auto Rifle Bar, Combat Infantry Badge, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal w/Device (1960), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Presidential Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross w/Palm Unit Citation, 2 Overseas Bars, Indiana Commendation Medal w/Oak Leaf Clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Commendation Medal and Wheeled Vehicle Badge while in the service of his country, however you will not find the Purple Heart Medal listed here, he did not receive one after being wounded in the A Shaun Valley, his leg wound was treated by a brain surgeon in a field hospital in Vietnam for over a week.

When I asked him why he didn't receive the medal he said he didn't know why, he did say he checked with the VA after coming home, but nothing was ever done about it.

I checked out the criteria of what it took to receive the Purple Heart medal on the internet and Mark's wound and treatment fits the description to a T.

The criteria for receiving the Purple Heart is as follows: **The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an Armed force who, while serving with the U.S. Armed Services after 5 April 1917, has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after being wounded. A wound for which the award is made must have required treatment by a medical officer.**

Criteria:

For wounds or death sustained in action against an enemy of the United States;

In any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the United States are or have been engaged;

While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party; As a result of an act of any such enemy of opposing armed forces;

As the result of an act of any hostile foreign force;

After 28 March 1973, as a result of an international terrorist attack against the United States by a foreign nation friendly to the United States, recognized as such an attack by the Secretary of the department concerned, or jointly by Secretaries of the departments concerned if persons from more than one department are wounded in the attack; or

After 28 March 1973, as a result of military operations, while serving outside the territory of the United States as part of a peacekeeping force.

After 7 December 1941, by weapon fire while directly engaged in armed conflict, regardless of the fire causing the wound (friendly fire).

While held as a prisoner of war or while being taken captive.

It seems to me that Mark Stover deserves to be awarded the Purple Heart, though long past overdue, he should receive it as expeditiously as possible, in my opinion.

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Mike Straub took this 10 point buck Patoka Lake area, it scored 155. (Poor Boy Country Store Photo, Eckerty, IN)



Wayne Simon and nephew Eric Sparks catch of the day. Caught in a private pond in a private place. Their home made stringer was over ten feet long. (Mark Whittler Photo)



Left to Right, Grandpa Bob, Son Bill and Grandson Braedyn Stidans on a family venture 11-14-09. (Red Barn Bait Shop Photo, Salem, IN)



Don Wessell group from Oberlin, Ohio with a 174# catch of Lake Erie walleye caught with Boytim Charter Service in Marblehead, Ohio (Boytim Charter Service Photo)



Albert Moore caught this 6.5 lb Largemouth Bass on 2-27-05 on a black on blue spinner 1/2 oz. colorado blade bait. (Albert Moore Photo)



Basil Belcher (left) caught this 52 pound catfish and James Enlow (right) caught this 30 pound catfish, both were caught in the Ohio River. (Poor Boy Country Store Photo, Eckerty, IN)



Justin Miller took this 9 point buck on November 25, 2009, it weighed 150 pounds. This was Justin's first deer. "Congratulations Justin!!" (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Robert Inglis took this 10 point buck with a bow in October 2009. (Dave's Triangle Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)

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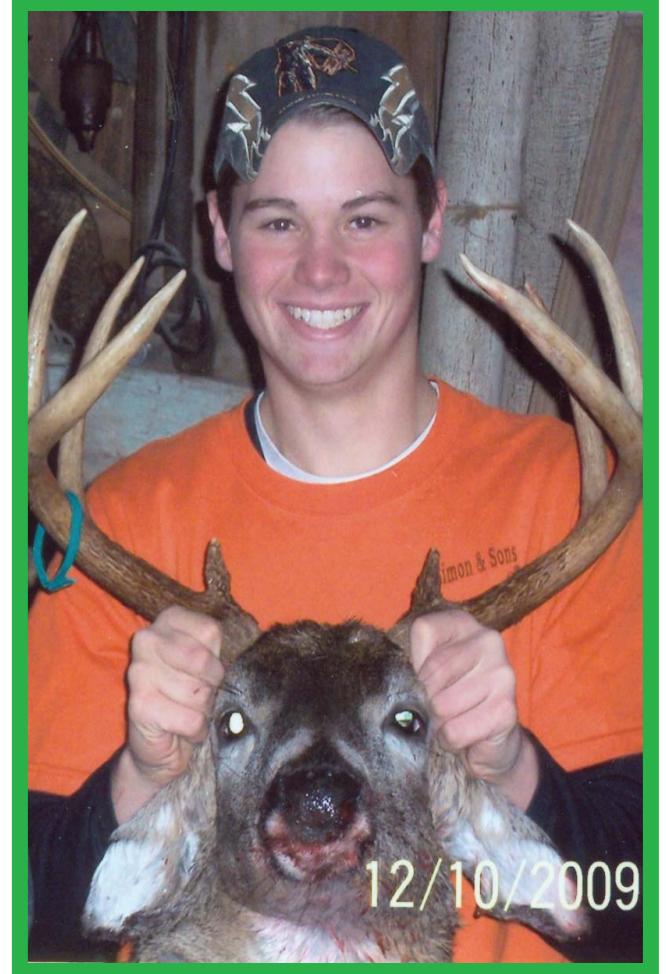
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Nine year old Logan Browning took his first deer, a 95 pound button buck with a shotgun on 11-28-2009. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Eight year old Justin McCullin got his first deer with a shotgun. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Seventeen year old Logan Simon took this his first Big buck on a private farm in Ripley County Indiana on 12-10-2009. (Wayne Simon Photo)

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Albert Moore took this 12 point 225 lb buck on 11-25-09 firearm season by muzzle loader. Had inside spread of 24 3/4, outside not scored. (Albert Moore Photo)

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out and bring with you to the Reunion Rendezvous.

Carl says we can use part of the two cabin areas north of the Causeway Road, up the hill by the large shade tree and at the top of the hill. If anyone is setting up a tipi we need to know as soon as possible. We would like to set you up in a highly visible area. It is our hope that our setting up camps between the fence and those two cabins will help entice people to come in, there is no admission charge for visitors to come into Treaty Line at any time.

This will be a time to remember Frontier Days and all the fun, mayhem, friendships made and lost, reflect on the time since then, etc.

If anyone has any suggestions send them along. I'm not planning any kind of special meal for us. The Lions Club will have several setups of BBQ trailers, food trailers, etc. And of course you can fix something at your campsite too. Bring your own firewood.

Carl did make one stipulation, he would like us to be dressed as we did for Frontier Days, and if you setup a trade blanket or a pre 1840 camp, that we try to make it as authentic as possible for the visitors.

For the 2011 Frontier Days Rendezvous that will be a regular part of the Smoke on the Water BBQ and Craft Fair weekend I will begin just as soon as this years event is over.

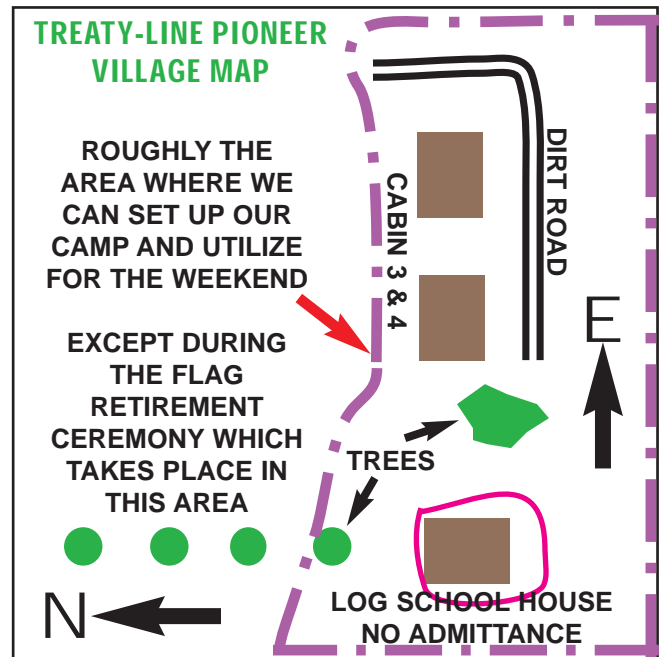
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For more information contact me by calling my cell 765-960-5767 or e-mail thegadabout@verizon.net.

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

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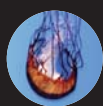
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