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APRIL 2011

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A RARE VISITOR CAME BY MY HOUSE ON SOUTH STREET FEBRUARY 9TH. SEE PAGE 29



READ MY EDGE CUTTING OPINION ON PAGE 31



EARLY SPRING OFTEN PRODUCES SOME OF THE LARGEST BASS OF THE YEAR. SEE PG 13

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THE COVER PHOTOS

Left Photo: When the water is still cold from winter, bass fishing is slow, but early spring often produces some of the largest bass of the year. The secret is fishing baits slow and deep. As water warms, the fish will move into the shallows. See more on page 13. (Photo by Phil Junker)

Top Right: Taking first place in Cabela's King Kat Tournament at Lake Tawakoni was the Stigler, Oklahoma team of Doren and Lauren Smith with a weight of 141.65 pounds and earning \$2,700.00. Doren and Lauren were fishing the south end of the lake targeting 24-26 feet of water using cut shad. The team caught a total of 7 fish for the day, but that's all they needed to take 1st place in the event. Teams are allowed to weigh in their top 5 fish by weight at the end of the day. Read more on page 20-21 (Photo by Larry Creelius)

Bottom Right: Since the snow made an appearance in Indiana and didn't seem to want to leave I've been feeding the birds and wild animals both at my home and office. I know the snow has exited, at least I hope it has left for good for this year, but who knows with the way the weather has been. Anyway when I was putting out some food for the birds on South Street I noticed a patch of red moving up the side of a dead tree in the back yard. I sneaked around the side of the house to get a closer look without scaring what ever it was off. I peeked over the board fence behind the house and saw this big (I mean big) red headed woodpecker. I had my camera so I zoomed in for a closer look. I then discovered that it wasn't a local red-headed woodpecker, it was a Pileated Woodpecker. The first one I had ever seen around Centerville. See more on my wildlife friends on page 29. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

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WAYNE COUNTY COON HUNTERS UKC YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM BENCH/HUNT MAY 21, 2011

The Wayne County Coon Hunters Association, Inc. located at 4251 State Road 1 South, just south of Milton, Indiana is holding a U.K.C. Youth Education Program (YEP) on May 21, 2011. The YEP starts at 2:30 p.m., followed by the Bench Show at 7:30 p.m., entry fee is \$5.00. The Hunt starts at 9:30 p.m., the entry fee is \$5.00.

Trophies: Blue Creek Dog Supplies, Dog Houses, Nite Time Hunting Supplies, Lites, Bench Show Stand.

For further information contact: Brian Cameron (765) 524-5875.

RICHMOND LIONS CLUB 59TH ANNUAL HOME & BUSINESS EXPO APRIL 13-15, 2011 AT RAPER CENTER



Top Photo: The Richmond Lions Club vision screening booth on health night. Bottom Photo: A demo by Cindy Reed from Lucidina Interiors on demo night. (Photos provided by Marc Clevenger)

(Submitted by Mark Clevenger)

Spring is coming and that can only mean one thing the Richmond Lions Club Home and Business Expo is just right around the corner. April 13 -15, 2011 is the date and the Raper Center located on the Wayne County Fairgrounds is the place to be. This year's event will include everything from interior design, to remodeling, to landscaping and much, much more. We will once again feature "theme nights" which include.

Wednesday, April 13th is "Community Night" where we will showcase the many non-profit organizations in our show by giving each one the opportunity to tell those in attendances what services they offer and how to take advantage of them. The entertainment for the evening will be "Country Strings"; if you like the sounds of dulcimers, harmonicas and the pennywhistle then you don't want to miss this.

Thursday, April 14th is our "Wellness Night". Are you in need of a physician? If so, stop by the Reid Hospital booth and see how they can help. Entertainment will be Cari Sweigart with ZUMBA the newest dancing exercise that everyone is talking about. Wear your dancing clothes and join in the fun.

Friday, April 15th is "Kids Night". Bring the whole family to this fun filled evening. Some of the things we have planned include Lowes building toys with the kids and Bounce Palace will be there so the kids can burn off some of that energy.

The Home and Business Expo will be open each evening from 6-9PM. Admission is just \$2.00 per person with kids 12 and under being admitted FREE with a paying adult. You can also get in FREE by donating a pair of eyeglasses, used cell phone or hearing aid. Don't have any of those? Donate 1.00 non-perishable food item and receive \$1.00 off admission price.

For the past 2 years the Richmond Lions Club has been blessed to be able to cook and serve lunches at the St. Paul's Episcopal soup kitchen on the 5th Wednesday of the month. All food items collected will be donated to their food pantry to help further our "WE SERVE" motto.

When you enter the Home & Business Expo you will be given a ticket for a chance to win one of our 8 nightly door prizes. The concession stand will be featuring our famous Pork Burgers, Hot dogs, Nachos and drinks. Want something on the sweet side? Visit our Country Store and they will be glad help you out. And don't forget to get your "dill pickle" before you leave.

The Richmond Lions Club is part of the world's largest service organization. Our motto is "WE SERVE". We do this by donating all monies raised back to the local community through donations to several non-profit organizations including Safety Village, Adult Day Care, RCS Study Buddy and Boys & Girls Club just to name a few. We also have an active school eye glass program to help students get the glasses they need to succeed in school plus at the invitation of the school nurse we go into the schools to do FREE vision screenings.

If you would like to learn more about the Lions Club or how to become a member you can do so by visiting our

website at www.richmondliionsclub.com or by calling the current Lions Club President at 765-749-7233.

We appreciate your support and hope to see you at the 59th Annual Richmond Lions Club Home & Business Expo.

LOST A GOOD FRIEND FEB 11, 2011 EARL BRASFIELD

My good friend Earl Brasfield passed away on February 11, 2011 at the age of 68. Earl and his wife, Anna Cofer Brasfield formerly owned the Liberty Motel and advertised in The Gad-about for many years. Earl and Anna moved to Centerville and were my neighbors here on School Street for several years now. Earl loved to fish, he was a Veteran of the U.S. Army and was a former member of the American Legion. Since retiring from Printgraphics Earl enjoyed furniture upholstery and relaxing at home with Anna and Yoda (Bobtail Siamese cat).

Earl's service was held on February 16, 2011 at Mills Funeral Home in Centerville, he was buried February 16, 2011 at the Abington Cemetery.

Earl Brasfield January 5, 1943 to February 11, 2011

EASTER SEALS CSA

"Easter Seals of Wayne and Union Counties awards one (1) scholarship in the amount of \$500.00 to a graduate of any accredited high school in Union or Wayne County who will be pursuing studies, edu-

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59th Annual Lions Club Home Expo
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Wednesday April 13th Community Night
 Country Strings

Thursday April 14th Wellness Night
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Friday April 15th Kids Night
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So You Wanna Catch More Fish



by Tag Nobbe
Professional Fishing Guide

Brookville Walleye Fishing in April

Thank God we can finally see a little light at the end of the tunnel. For some reason this year winter just seemed longer and colder than normal. I'm sure I speak for a lot of people when I say I'm glad spring is just around the corner.

April is a great time to be alive. Everything seems to be waking up from a long sleep and the walleye is no exception. Every year it's the same, as the water temperature moves through the mid 40's

Walleye get the urge to move to the rocks. If you can't find them there check out the rivers. Walleye are also drawn up rivers. One good place to look is the stilling basin just below the Brookville dam. Another good area is the river above the lake. In April the walleye are going to be shallow so don't be afraid to look for them in water as shallow as one foot. One thing to keep in mind though, if you can see them they can see you.

Spring is one of those times in the year that more than likely we are going to get a lot of rain. When this happens it will make the river above the lake less fishable due to the amount of current. But when the water recedes get back out there. A great bait to use is a 1/16 ounce lead head jig tipped with a minnow or tipped with a three inch curly tail. If the water is muddy use an orange, chartreuse, brown or green curly tail. If the water is clear use white, silver or pearl curly tails.

When the river above the lake is too high and muddy switch your attention to the stilling basin below the dam. Usually the Army corp. of engineers will have to hold the water back for a time to give the Ohio River a chance to recede. This is your window of opportunity but only until they start dumping the lake. When this happens it will make the stilling basin less fishable also.

To find out the outflow at the stilling basin go to my web site www.brookvillelakeguideservice.com

Click on lake report find Brookville, it's about the 7th lake property from the top. Look to the right till you see the numbers in blue, this is the exact lake level in real time. Winter pool is 740.00 Elev. and summer pool is 748.00 Elev., keep looking to your right the 3rd column from the right is the outflow at the stilling basin. CFS means cubic feet per second. So if it reads 135 it means there releasing 135 cubic feet per second of water from the lake. This amount of water released to the stilling basin will not even create a current, but if you check it and its about 1500 cubic feet per second, the stilling basin will have so much current it will also be less fishable. The same baits you use in the river above the lake will

work just as good in the river below the lake. The only difference is you will never have muddy water in the river below the lake it may be swift but it won't be muddy.

If you find yourself at this time of the year fishing in the lake, look for rocky areas that the sun shines on most of the day, this in turn will be the warmest water in the lake. The walleye in Brookville Lake will start to spawn when the surface temperature reaches about 46 degrees. The problem with trying to catch walleye in April is that they are awake all night looking for romance and resting all day thinking about what they are going to be doing as soon as it gets dark again. All we can do

is hope for a stupid one every once and awhile.

This will last for about two weeks. From this point I believe the walleye have to go through a recuperation period for about a week. From here they switch from their spawning areas to their feeding areas. This is where you want to concentrate your efforts. Look for places where all the other fish in the lake will start their spawning cycles.

Good Luck Tag

If you need more info E Mail me at tag@tagnobbe.com or go to the web site 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 Lake. We fish out of a 2007 Lund Pro V 2025 with a 225 Honda motor. I supply everything all the way down to cleaning the fish. I can take 1-4 people. The price is according to how many people go \$400.00 for 4 people \$325.00 for 3 people \$275.00 for 2 people and \$225.00 for 1 person. We start at 7:00 am and fish till 1:00 To schedule trips call me at home 765-647-4329 or on my cell phone 765-265-3238.

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Walleye & Yellow Perch Artwork by Bob Hines / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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News from the Indiana State Police



by Sgt. John D. Bowling

Photogrammetry-New Technology Used in Investigations

You've heard me say before, crash investigation is the worst part of my job. The human element, people getting injured, maimed and killed, is what makes it so hard. The actual investigation part of what happened at a crash scene can be as interesting as any investigation.

You interview witnesses, you take photographs and you measure the scene. All these along with a general understanding of physics, and a few other factors, help you determine what happened. Now the measuring part can be quite time consuming, especially at a serious or fatal crash scene. Just four years ago I kept a laser in my car. I could use it to "clock" cars, but more importantly, could use it to "shoot" (take) measurements at scenes. This greatly reduced time spent at scenes.

Through the IN-TIME (INdiana-Traffic Incident Management Effort), initiative funding was obtained to purchase Photogrammetry equipment for over 120 Indiana Law Enforcement Officers statewide. The Indiana State Police has Troopers trained in all 14 ISP districts on Photogrammetry. The equipment includes a camera, tripod, markers and software.

Items or locations at a scene, both traffic and criminal, are identified with markers and then the scene is photographed. We then download the pictures into a computer and the software program allows us to match the markers from photo to photo. After the matches are completed the software will provide a diagram of the scene in a 3D presentation. Since Indiana began using Photogrammetry in June of 2009 we are saving, on average, one hour and 47 minutes per scene.

Major Melville, current chair of the IN-TIME initiative, says he believes "this one piece of technology has already been a significant factor in reducing secondary crashes by opening roadways much quicker than before. These technologies, along with other IN-TIME best practices, are geared to open roadways while still providing safety for all first responder disciplines, along with the incident victim and those



Indiana State Police with Photogrammetry set up along interstate. (Photo by John Bowling)

stuck in traffic backups."

Remember last month we learned that for every minute a road is closed it will take four minutes for that stopped traffic to clear up. Keeping that in mind, using Photogrammetry just in this last year, we have saved you, the motoring public, over 899 hours of sitting in stopped traffic or working your way through that traffic back up. Now that's technology that works!

Spring Time - Time to Beware Internet, Phone and Mail Scams

Spring time 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 FBI received 5315 complaints from Indiana citizens in 2009. (2010 stats were not available.) Losses throughout the state in 2009 totaled over \$10,900,000. The average monetary loss per case is \$500. 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, copying a real add to use as his fake one. 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, one of the most common acts of internet fraud, made up 11.3% of all losses in 2009.

In February we started having people call and stop by the post with email notices and phone calls from a supposed "Federal Agent" saying they had won a sweepstakes. The email or caller would give a fake name and agency that they "worked" for, usual-

ly the FBI. It's hard to believe that people will send money to get money from a sweepstakes they've never heard of or entered.

The below is printed directly from The FBI's IC3 website:

Fraudsters tell victims they won a sweepstakes or lottery, but to receive a lump sum pay out, they must pay the taxes and processing fees upfront. Fraudsters direct individuals to call a telephone number to initiate a letter of instructions. The letter alleges that the victim may elect to take an advance on the winnings to make the required upfront payment. The letter includes a check in the amount of the alleged taxes and fees, along with processing instructions. Ultimately, victims believe they are using the advance to make the required upfront payment, but in reality they are falling prey to the scheme.

The victim deposits the check into their own bank, which credits the account for the amount of the check before the check clears. The victim immediately withdraws the money and wires it to the fraudsters. Afterwards, the check proves to be counterfeit and the bank pulls the respective funds from the victim's account, leaving the victim liable for the amount of the counterfeit check plus any additional fees the bank may charge.

Persons may fall victim to this scheme due to the allure of easy money and the apparent legitimacy of the check the fraudsters include in the letter of instruction. The alleged cash prizes and locations of the financial institutions vary.

In each instance, when I spoke to someone asking the State Police about an email or phone call, I

CONTINUED ON PAGE 27

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Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



by PIO Gary Catron

Spring stream rocks!

For too long it seemed like spring would never get here. It is close, right? Well anyway, let's declare it to be "not winter" anymore. The rivers, creeks and streams begin to look really inviting in early spring. Canoes beckon. Floating a stream can be just what the doctor ordered when it comes to shaking off a lingering case of cabin fever. Spring rains usually provide good water levels for our streams which can eliminate the need of having to get out of the canoe and pull the craft through the shallow riffle areas as is many times the case in late summer.

Extra caution should be taken when floating spring streams. Though air temperatures may be comfortable, water temperatures have yet to warm. Guarding against hypothermia is a must. The rule of thumb is to dress for the water. Yes, the goal is to stay in the canoe, but that doesn't always happen. Layering of proper clothing should be taken seriously. Specialty clothing made for canoeing and kayaking is available and should be included as needed protective gear. Wearing a good PFD is essential. Trying to put a PFD on in the midst of an accident is like trying to put a seatbelt on during a crash. It sim-



ply doesn't work! High buoyancy PFDs are available and should be considered.

The biggest hazard in rivers and streams is current. It is also the most often overlooked. Though not being known for having world class whitewater, Hoosier streams this time of year can sometimes be technically challenging. Knowing how the changing currents affect your canoe and how to traverse these areas has to be learned. This is not the time to be a first time paddler.

One important skill to know when paddling rivers is what to do if you fall out of a canoe or kayak. It often seems natural to immediately attempt to stand up. This is the wrong thing to do and can result in a foot entrapment. This is when a foot or a leg becomes wedged between rocks, tree roots or other objects in the riverbed and the pushing current force makes it difficult for a person to free themselves. The combination of eventual fatigue and a rising river can result in disaster if help isn't nearby. The reality is help often isn't nearby. The proper skill to know is the 'self-rescue' position. Since we are already wearing a PFD we are buoyant and ready to float so there is no need to attempt to stand up. The proper self-rescue position is to float on your back and paddle with your hands maneuvering to face downstream with your feet up so your toes are visible slightly above the surface. Body positioning is similar to being in a recliner chair. This allows you to see what is approaching downstream and gives you the ability to fend off objects with your feet. By attaining a bit of an angle with the body in relation to the current direction, the current force will naturally work you to shore in the direction your head is pointing. This is the same principle used at ferry crossings before we become all "modernized".

An ever present river hazard is the strainer. This is a feature that allows water to pass through it but will hold objects. Downed trees, tree roots and fencing are some examples. These should be avoided all together. It is a very dangerous situation should a canoe and occupants get pushed into a strainer. Capsizing and being pinned underwater in the strainer is about as serious as it can get. Identify and avoid these areas.

Solid objects hazards dot our streams in the form of bridge pilings, logs and large rocks. If caught on the upstream side of these, strong current can pin, and sometimes wrap a canoe around them. If you inadvertently find yourself in this potentially dangerous position, lean downstream toward the object. This presents the rounded surface of the hull for the current to more easily pass around while you work yourself away from the object. To lean upstream at this point presents the gunwale and if it were to dip into the current swamping would be



unavoidable.

You should portage around all low head dams regardless of their size. The hazard is the hydraulic water flow that results from water passing over the dam. As the water passes over and drops, it creates a bit of a void that the water continues to refill. The current flows back toward the face of the dam and is capable of holding and circulating large object for many days. Think of watching a large tree trunk being tossed at the face of a low head dam and image what it does to people and small watercraft. Portage and avoid!

It is not my intent to frighten anyone from taking to our streams but to give a heads-up to some of the potential hazards that can ruin an outing. Those new to paddling should start out on non-moving flat water. When that skill set is mastered the next step is to experience mild current situations. Continue the progression until a comfort level is reached as higher current levels are experienced. Be wise and don't rush this process.

Personally, I feel as though we have had enough of a seasonal spanking from old man winter. It's time we get out and do some paddling of our own...there have to be a few fish that need caught along the way. Stay dry. Be safe.

Critters, Conflict and the Web

Each year at about this time, conservation officers, as well as DNR personnel and offices everywhere, begin to field an increase in complaints of nuisance or orphaned wildlife. These calls range from concerns of wildlife babies that are perceived as being orphaned to damage of private property or general nuisance being done by wildlife. Assistance for these and similar animal complaints is available via "the DNR website" with only a few clicks of the mouse.

Once at the Indiana DNR website (www.in.gov/dnr), find the selection on the left side of the page that reads "Land Owner & Community Assistance" and click on it. This should open up several selections. Click on the selection "Fish & Wildlife". The page that now appears is the nuts and bolts for nuisance wildlife resolutions. Land owners can find information on how to resolve wildlife conflicts themselves, how to find licensed nuisance wildlife control operators and licensed wildlife rehabilitators for sick or truly orphaned wildlife.

This is the portion of the DNR website that I seem to visit most often. When I get inquiries and complaints about nuisance or injured wildlife, this is where I get the appropriate and updated referral information. I like it because it gives everyone the ability to get the information they need, without delay, 24-7.

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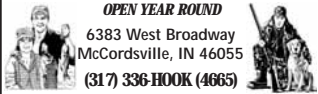
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The Simple Life



by Jack & Leslie Turner

Targeting Crappie & Trout

Spring is here. It is time to put away the snow shovel & salt; the sleds & snow skis; and the winter coats & boots.

While April showers bring May flowers, longer and warmer days bring cabin-fevered fishermen to the waterways.

Many different species can be, and are, caught during the spring season. But we like to target rainbow trout and crappie this time of year.

In the area in which we reside, Dearborn County (S.E. Indiana), we can drive twenty-five miles or less to target the aforementioned species of fish. The Ohio River, Brookville Lake and five state parks in Hamilton County, Ohio all provide us the opportunity for early season fishing success.

Of the two species of fish- crappie & trout- the crappie provides an angler the best chance for success. In addition, the number of fish one can catch and legally keep is much greater.

Crappie can be taken with an ultralight to light action rod donned with 2-4 lb. test line. However, we never use fishing line with less than 6 lb. test due to the possibility of catching a non-target species such as bass.

Crappie like cover such as logs & trees, rocks and sunken debris. In addition to providing cover, microorganisms live on these submerged structures attracting minnows which in turn attract crappie.



Next to live bait, we have taken more crappie and large-mouth bass with these lures than all others combined. Top Row: Road Runners. Middle Row: Small Crankbaits. Bottom Row: Beetle Spins. (Photo by Jack Turner, Jr.)

Crappie are also known for congregating in small schools. Catch one and you're likely to add a few more to your stringer or live well.

The most popular choice of bait for crappie is a live minnow. Some anglers run the hook under the bottom lip and up through the head. Others prefer to place the hook behind the dorsal fin so that the minnow will stay alive longer and be free to swim. Experience has taught us that a live minnow generally works better than a dead one. But when the minnow dies, we like to move the bait in an up and down (vertical) motion.

Other baits that we frequently utilize for crappie are Road Runners, Beetle Spins, small crankbaits and ball lead-head jigs. In early season, a slow presentation is the name of the game.

It may be simply habit from watching fishing shows in his teen years, but Jack sticks primarily to three basic colors of Beetle Spins, Road Runners and jigs. These are chartreuse, white and yellow. There are times when red, black, green and purple are used, but not as often. A combination of colors such as white & red, white & green, etc. may be advantageous.

When using live bait and fishing around structure

for crappie, some anglers prefer to utilize a gold hook. This often allows the angler to get free from snags as the hook bends much easier. A stout hook is not necessary when crappie fishing as they have no teeth and

their mouths are paper thin.

Rainbow trout is another popular springtime target for the fisherman. Pennsylvania and Tennessee are known for their trout, especially in the creeks and mountain streams. But they can be taken here in Indiana and Ohio as well.

Being a native of Pennsylvania, Jack recalls fishing streams and pay lakes with his father and grandfather in Ligonier, Ogletown and Somerset, Pa. But today, we can fish for trout in Brookville, Indiana as well as the Miami-Whitewater Park or other Hamilton County (Ohio) State Parks.

Jack hasn't fly fished much which is a very common practice for taking trout. Instead he uses what he and his relatives used years ago- nightcrawlers, canned corn, minnows, salmon eggs and Velveeta cheese. These have proved successful over the years especially when two baits are used at the same time. This can be done by attaching a monofilament leader about twelve to eighteen inches up from the end of the line. Jack has also utilized spinners for taking trout and has caught perhaps a dozen rainbows in his lifetime with these lures.

Locations to catch trout are near rocks or in shallow water. Jack has caught many trout in quiet, shallow-watered coves. March through May are the prime months for catching trout in this area.

You've waited for months for the snow to break, the waterways to thaw and the temps to stay above freezing levels. Now that has happened so take your wife & children to your favorite fishing hole and catch those hungry crappie and trout. In doing so you'll create memories that will last a lifetime. ■



A white crappie caught by Jack at a private pond in Dillsboro, IN. (Photo by Leslie Turner)

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Talking Leaves



by Golden Eagle

The Rains Came ..

It is said that April Showers bring May flowers. Even as I write I can hear a rumbling in the west. Although it is clear out now, I know that in two or three hours the clouds will roll in and sometime around midnight the rains will come. Hard rain (the male rain) crashing against the windows and turning my yard into a natural bird bath for any of my winged friends who dare to venture into it.

Michael tells me that they are having a dry year in Arizona, bad for the farmers and ranchers and bad for the recreation areas that count on the water. My grandmother's people, the Hopi. Are the greatest dry land farmers in America. They plant their four colors of corn in the valley below three Mesa and survive on what rain they catch in their irrigation ditches. Of course they have the only real "Rain Dance" that I know of, the "Snake Dance."

The drum is the 'Voice of the Great Spirit.' However, it was sometimes called the 'Voice of Thunder.' 'Rain Makers' in the Nineteenth century used a drum to bring on the rain.

March was a fairly active month for me, April is proving to be somewhat quiet by comparison. I have an active May to look forward to, so I hope the rain is over and the spring is here at last.

May the Great Spirit continue to look with favor on you and yours.

Old Chief Says:

An imaginary ailment is worse than a disease. ■

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After the American Revolution the name was changed to The Society of Red Men. They kept the customs and terminology of the Indians as a basic part of the fraternity.

Prominent Americans who have belonged include George Washington, Samuel Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, John Hancock, Thomas Payne, Paul Revere, Theodore Roosevelt, Warren Harding, Franklin D Roosevelt, and thousands of other citizens.

Words of Theodore Roosevelt: "I am confident that in the final analysis we shall find that the stability of our government depends not so much on our armies and navies, though they may be vastly important, but rather, we must depend upon the Brotherhood of Humanity as represented by the great force of fraternity. The fraternal societies are one of the greatest powers for good government and the protection of the home that we have in this country. The government will endure as long as we protect the great interests represented by our fraternal societies."

Another question often asked, Do I have to be a Native American to join? The answer is no.

We meet the third Thursday at MCL Cafeteria in Richmond: eat at 6:00 PM if you wish with the meeting beginning at 6:45 PM and ends at 7:30 PM. We

try to have a speaker each month. For additional information call Malcolm Greene at 765-259-1958. ■

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with Ray McCune

SPRING GREENS

It's spring and time for some 'tonic weeds' like: Poke greens, Nettle, Cat's Paw, Deer's Tongue, Dandelion, Lamb's Quarter, Plantain, Violets, Mustard, Ramps and many other wild plants. I'll admit that I'm cheating a little on the wild greens a bit because I have just watched the last bit of snow melt in my back yard and the greens aren't up yet in my favorite patch of woods so I reverted to my freezer where I have two large packages of Allium Tricoccum stashed away gathered during a hunting trip to West Virginia last year.

OK, OK, what I'm talking about is a native plant akin to the onion family or wild leek as it were. The native West Virginians call them, "Ramps" or short for Rampions or Ramsons and Richwood, West Virginia is the Ramp Capitol of the World. Every year they hold a Ramp Festival and they offer up Ramps in all forms of a "... delicious manner" as my mother would say. People sell them canned, raw, fried, pickled, or as greens with vinegar and hard boiled eggs. They even offer up a Ramp wine.

They are delicious and to tell you the truth they make your breath stink like you've eaten a combination of extra strong onions and some very powerful garlic all at the same time. You will also notice a garlic like stench in your perspiration for several days after eating them so change your underwear often.

I'm not sure if there are any wild Ramps in Indiana but if I were to take a guess I would say there probably are some in the southern hills or maybe around Brown County. They like the mountains for some reason. So in case you run into someone along the side of the road selling ramps by the bushel you might want to stop and check them out. A lot of people in West Virginia gather (dig) ramps in the spring



Fresh ramps being cleaned. (Photo by Ray McCune)

and sell them to help support their families. Several IGA and Foodland stores back there stock them in their produce section during the short season.

In case you can't find any ramps you might want to substitute some small green onions in these next 'wild' recipes.

RAMP BURGERS ALA RAY

2 lbs. plain ground venison or deerburger (no pork or sausage added)
1 envelope of onion soup mix
Pepper to taste (no salt as there is plenty in the onion soup mix)
1 cup to a cup and a half of chopped ramps or green onion
Olive oil enough to just coat the bottom of a non-stick skillet
Hamburger buns

Mix all ingredients together and divide into 1/4 lb. balls. Flatten each ball between two saucers covered with plastic wrap (for easy removal) into a patty about the size of the saucers. Fry the 1/4-pounders in a small amount of olive oil until they are just pink in the center. Fry up all of the patties and put them in a 9 X 13 inch bread pan with a cover and put the pan of burgers in a warm oven to 'season' as I call it.

Now prepare the rest of the meal of say chips, baked beans, and maybe corn on the cob and while you're at it, toast the buns.

When the rest of the meal is ready, take the patties out and serve them on the toasted buns with your favorite condiments: ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, horsey sauce, sliced onion, pickle chips, lettuce, sliced tomato, and cheese slices. This recipe should make eight servings or feed two hungry Boy Scouts.

MACARONI SALAD

(Gen Flacemire said, "This recipe won a \$100 Savings Bond at the Feast of the Ramson in Richwood, WV.")

Approximately 2 cups
cooked macaroni
2 hard boiled eggs (cut up)
1/2 cup sandwich spread
1 tbsp. salad dressing
1 tbsp. vinegar
2 tbsp. chopped red or green peppers
1 cup ramp ramps (cut up)

Mix all ingredients together, chill, and serve

RAMPS THE MOST COMMON WAY

(This recipe could be called "Just Plain Ramps Is Good" and yes, I know

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 29



Fried Ramps in left skillet and fried potatoes in right skillet. (Photo by Ray McCune)

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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

Salmon in the Schools

Which came first, the salmon or the salmon egg? You know the conundrum, since salmon eggs come from salmon, how could the egg be first with no salmon? Since salmon come from salmon eggs, how could the salmon be first if there was no egg preceding it?

In Lake Michigan, that's something of a moot point because we know where most of our salmon originate—from fish hatcheries. There are a few which have gone rogue and do it the old fashioned way by swimming upstream, depositing their own eggs and making their own babies, but the dependable supply of fish for the Great Lakes come from the state-owned hatcheries. Except for a few thousand each year which come from an unusual source.

It was a cold and windy day in Saugatuck, MI last spring when the fifth-graders from the Saugatuck/Douglas school showed up dockside for an end-of-the-school-year field trip. Or perhaps a better description would be "boat-trip" but it wasn't just boating, it was a celebration of the end of a class project they'd completed a few weeks earlier.

They, along with elementary and middle-school students from over a 100 classrooms around the State of Michigan, had cooperated with the Michigan DNR's "Salmon in the Classroom" project in which baby king salmon don't spawn in the wild and are not raised in a state fish hatchery. They are hatched, nurtured and grown to stocking size in school rooms.

It's not a simple project. The equipment and aquariums needed to turn a school room into a fish hatchery—even one which is only going to produce a hundred or so baby chinooks—costs more than \$1000. Most school boards won't foot the bill for such an expense, but teachers across the state have found local businesses as well as conservation and angler's groups willing to contribute

the dollars needed to outfit their rooms.

Here's how the program works. When the salmon start running in October, teachers who have signed up for the program pick-up their supply of eggs at one of the weirs on Lake Michigan or Lake Huron where the DNR catches the spawning salmon to harvest the eggs for their hatcheries. If the weirs are too great a distance, they can arrange to pick up the eggs at the closest hatchery to their school in November. Many teachers arrange the pick-up as a class field trip to see the fish being captured at the weirs or for a tour of a "real" hatchery.

Once they get the eggs, the process of maturing them, hatching them and rearing the little fry over the winter months provides a ready-made lesson plan for the participating teachers. It provides a ready-made class project for the students.

In May, the salmon raised in the school rooms are ready to stock. The smolts are taken to the nearest Great Lake tributary and with plenty of pomp and circumstance, the "graduates" are released to fulfill their destiny.

At Saugatuck, the 70 students who grew the chinooks in their classrooms went with local charter fishing captains and other sports fishermen to try to catch some of the chinooks stocked by their schoolmates in previous years. Since the fish aren't marked, there's no way to tell for sure if the fish caught were classroom fish or others, but the smiling faces and happy stories told at the morning's end showed the day had been a success.

No one knows what sort of influence a project like this or a simple day of introducing youngsters to the fun of fishing might engender. I like to think there could be one or more young fisheries biologists and several avid anglers created by the Salmon in the Classroom project and the experiences it affords many of Michigan's young people.

THE END



Saugatuck students and the results of their boat trip! (Photo by Mike Schoonveld)

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Outdoors Tales



by Phil Junker

Always anxious for spring

When March rolls around, I always over react. I think it should be spring, but I'm at least two weeks, and maybe more too early for the good spring weather to have arrived to stay.

It's not unusual for a big snow storm to strike in March. It can be deep and wet, but fortunately it doesn't stick around long. Forsythia and daffodils are announcing the coming season and better weather. Crocus already are blooming.

With spring, there is so much to do in the outdoors that it is difficult to decide just what to enjoy. Sauger fishing is just ending, sucker and crappie fishing is ready to peak. Then there is turkey hunting, morel mushroom hunting, hiking and camping.

There are opportunities for combos. You can crappie fish in the morning and hunt mushrooms in the afternoon. Or, you can turkey hunt in the morning and check out nearby promising areas for morels, and then crappie fish in the afternoon.

And while the water is still relatively cold, fishing for largemouth bass usually is slow. However, some of the biggest bass of the year are taken in early spring. The key in cold water is to fish baits slow and deep.

Indiana's spring turkey season opens April 27 and runs through May 15. The two-day

youth hunt is April 23-24.

Besides all of the hunting and fishing opportunities, morel mushroom hunting tops many people's list of spring activities. And, it is great just to walk in the woods to enjoy the color burst of wild flowers.

#####

PET MICROCHIPS--Nearly 20 years ago, two of my English Setter bird dogs disappeared in different incidents. One was never found, the other returned after a call to a suspected dog napper.

Then several years ago, my two rat terriers escaped from the motor home while parked in a remote section of a campground in North Little Rock, Ark. We were attending the annual conference of the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association.

I spent a sleepless night until they returned just before daylight. Having pets disappear when traveling is especially worrisome.

I never knew if the two terriers, Augie and Buddy were chasing a deer, or maybe found an attractive female somewhere on the other side of the woods. Anyway, it was a welcome sound to hear them at the RV screen door, just before sunrise.

Last year, when we obtained a rat terrier pup, our Cloverdale Animal hospital vet Dr. Frank Stokes suggested a tracking microchip. After our previous experiences, I decided it was a good idea, and had one placed on Tyler.

A microchip implant is an identifying integrated circuit placed under the skin of a pet. The chips are about the size of a large grain of rice and are based on a passive radio frequency identification technology. It apparently is a simple, safe vet procedure for the vet. (I don't think Tyler even knew the chip was implanted.)

There are several competing microchip registry

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

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When the water is still cold from winter, bass fishing is slow, but early spring often produces some of the largest bass of the year. The secret is fishing baits slow and deep. As water warms, the fish will move into the shallows. (Photo by Phil Junker)

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Camping Here & Beyond



by John and El McCory

Planning Group Camping Trips

At least with some groups going on camping trips the drivers and chaperones can plan the trip so they aren't responsible for every single activity on the trip. A typical list of activities and responsibilities will probably take place would be: driving, navigating (watching map and road signs), loading and unloading trailers or vans, setting up tents or camp trailers, preparing a campfire or cook stove for cooking, shopping for food, preparing coolers with ice and keeping them supplied with water, soda or other drinks for meals and coolers for food needing to be kept cold, pumping gas, cleaning windows, mirrors, head lamps and taillights, breaking camp and getting personal items and tents ready to load, cooking meals, gathering wood (if legal) for fires, cleaning up campsite, washing utensils and packing them away, cleaning up the vehicles each day after all personal items are removed, planning campfire activities (programs) such as sing along, skits, liars club, clean jokes, hilarious past personal events, pizza and pie making over the fire, S'mores, events most liked or disliked during the day, and with church groups, evening meditation and prayer and worship songs.

There are hundreds of activities in libraries under Recreation, and probably thousands on the internet. Just by asking the group members before the trip will usually bring more activities they've played at various camps. Be sure enough time is allotted to be able to get the proper game parts ready to take on the trip. Most activities are self explanatory but often should be thoroughly explained so they can be enjoyed by everyone. Sometimes there may be one or more students who might be bashful and don't seem to want to get involved in the activities. Most times we've found a student who can work with the student(s) and get them involved. We've seen several youngsters blossom into leaders themselves after have been helped on earlier trips. In case of inclement weather outdoor cooking and activities can be postponed. (Food will keep) The mall, movies, or activities in the National or State Park recreation hall or pavilion are usually good second choices. More private campgrounds are allowing groups to use their recreation buildings or pavilions as they know the youth groups are the next generation of campers and hope they will remember the facilities and come back later. I can't remember ever having turned down group campers at our recreation hall in the campground we owned for 31 years in case of bad weather, except when we might have had scheduled activities planned.

Everyone on the trip has a job or two each day

and, according to the length of the trip could be responsible for each of the jobs more than once. The leaders, drivers and chaperones are, of course, included in taking their turns. Most of the activities can be plotted on a spread sheet with activities along the side and all the names across the top. X's can be placed in the squares for each day of the trip, making sure that breakfast and lunch shopping and cooking is plotted first so the same group of shoppers and cooks aren't always chosen together. After checking the chart carefully, a copy should be given each traveler and copies placed in the vehicles and at the campsite where each camper can see what responsibility they have. We've found that by giving the food money to 3 or 4 people, including an adult, a good variety of food for lunch and breakfast was purchased.

Dinner was usually "on your own" where there were several restaurants. After dinner we would stop for the breakfast and lunch planners to shop. We could earn enough money from selling recyclable materials, working the school carnival and selling concessions at several athletic and fine arts events at school that all the expense students had out of pocket was for their evening meals. This is not bad for a nine day sometimes three thousand mile round trip campouts. Getting volunteers for these money making projects was never a problem as they knew that money left over from fuel, admission to parks and camping was divided among the whole group at the end of the trip. Very few times did the students have pay for their own meals after money was distributed later.

We usually got camp set up, drove to a nearby shopping center and students scattered to eat where they wanted. No one was allowed to go alone---there had to be two or more in a group going to a restaurant. Amazingly they went to sit down restaurants and ordered meals, passing up the fast food. Upon arriving back at camp, many, of course, bragged about the food challenges, and that they'd eaten things they wouldn't eat at home. They would eat such things as oysters, clams, sushi, mussels, and other foods others in the group wouldn't eat. Buffets were popular and we admonished the students just to take what they were going to eat. No waste.

No one griped about breakfast or lunch menus purchased and prepared by others as they knew they'd get their chance. What food combinations!!! Several times we had budding chefs with us and we looked forward to the next time they prepared the meals. Everyone washed and dried their own eating utensils, cleaned out and folded their own tents and sleeping bags ready for the crew to pack away. Everyone policed the camping area after breakfast, and everything was packed and ready to leave early in the morning. We ALWAYS left the camp cleaner than we had found it upon arriving. Each person was responsible for his (her) own personal items, such as dirty clothes, swim wear, bath items, etc., and the last thing we asked before we left was, "does everyone have all their own stuff?" I can't recall ever having to back track to retrieve anything someone had left behind.

Planning like this certainly shortens the time necessary to keep every day of the trip in proper focus. In nearly 100% of the time I believe the students fulfilled their own (on the list) responsibilities. I

never checked, but I would expect there was some trading of jobs because some didn't know how or didn't want to get their hands dirty. At the end of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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Ginger Murphy, State Coordinator at 317-232-4143 or e-mail gmurphy@dnr.IN.gov. I greatly enjoyed the things I learned when I took the course. Even though I had taken whole semester classes in many of the topics while earning my degree in wildlife management, I still learned new things and re-learned some old facts. I am forgotten in the decades since I left Purdue. I am seriously considering taking the course again in a different location.

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



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Popular Program Goes Junior

On the back of my business card, near the bottom of what I call my "mini resume", is a line I added several years ago. It says, "Indiana Master Naturalist". I earned this line by enrolling in, and passing the requirements of, a class offered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. I just learned this past weekend this course has now been upgraded to offer basically the same type material to youths ages 9-13. This program is called the Junior Indiana Master Naturalist Program.

The JIMN is similar in scope and purpose to the adult version with some variations to accommodate the younger students. Basically, the program provides an introduction to Indiana natural resources in a fun and educational setting. The Junior classes offer a minimum of eight, two hour sessions. Sometimes this is in a summer camp type version running four or five consecutive days. Sites are located around various Hoosier cities. While the IMN classes are becoming more widespread around the state, the Junior program is fairly new and locations are still limited, being mostly in the Indianapolis area and Ft. Wayne. Check the website or contact the State Coordinator for future offerings.

The Naturalist program consists of a variety of hands-on, age-appropriate sessions focusing on our natural resources, including botany, zoology, geology/soils, water, people and natural resources, and other topics selected by the instructors. Those chosen to teach these areas are considered experts in their fields and are also experienced in working with youths. Each Junior IMN course begins and ends with a short survey to determine how well the material was learned. There is a fee charged, but the amount is determined by the sponsors of each area program and includes a \$10 per person administrative fee which provides the attendees with IMN pins and other materials after completion of the class requirements.

Students are expected to participate in at least 80% of the course sessions. After the end of the program, students then complete six hours of volunteer service with a local or state natural resources organization. They also complete the pre and post survey during the first and last course sessions and pay the registration fee required by the sponsor. After completing the course program and the volunteer service hours, participants will receive a certificate of completion, an Indiana Master Naturalist pin, and a one year subscription to the Indiana Master Naturalist newsletter.

While the individual class topics (for both the adult and junior versions) generally fall into the above listed categories, some sessions will vary

according to the area where the classes are held. Many State Parks, Universities, and other locations have their own special attractions suitable for learning experiences. My classes at Ball State included tree growth and wood structure, spring wildflowers, soil resources, water wisdom, bat identification (and trapping!), mushroom ID, people and their environment, and backyard wildlife. Different instructors, sponsors, and locations may have similar or vast changes in their course setup.

If you have no youngsters in your family of the right age to participate at this time, perhaps you would like to attend the adult classes yourself. The two major differences for the adult version is the eight class sessions are three hours long instead of two and the volunteer period after the course is 40 hours. This time can of course be broken up to fit the individual attendee's schedule. The course sponsors and instructors will be glad to help you find a variety of areas which will be appropriate for your volunteer period. I filled my 40 hours (more like 60 hours) taking photos of and identifying over 50 native prairie wildflowers to aid Ball State students in a plant identification course.

To give you an idea what is included in the classes, I can only relate to you some of the things covered when I took the IMN course. Time, location, sponsors, and instructors will change a lot of the specifics. My first lesson was on tree growth, wood structure and identification. It covered tree rings, how trees grow, cell structure (under a microscope) and other neat tree information. The second session was on spring wildflowers. Unfortunately, I missed this class because I was spending eight days covering the outdoors of Virginia.

Soil resources was next. We studied the various makeups of different soil types in the classroom, and then went out into nearby woods to take soil samples and learn how soil affects the plants which can grow there.

Water Wisdom was a session conducted at Minnetrista Center in Muncie. We studied various aspects of water in the classroom, and then got to play in a pond on the property and identify plants, insects, etc. living in the muck. Dipping a strainer in the ooze and carefully sorting through the mud and weeds, we discovered numerous aquatic creatures we had to identify.

My favorite class was on Indiana bats! We watched a lot of slides on bats of the world, their uses, facts and fantasies, and then identified the bat specimens (dead and stuffed) in the room. When our three hour class was over, we were invited to stay late and set up mist nets near a wooded area. Bats would fly into these nets and get caught for closer study. Just about dark, something big hit the net. Our instructor walked out to release what he thought was a robin since one had been flying near the net. The catch turned out to be a tiny screech owl. This is a really interesting bird with reddish feathers, huge yellow eyes, and small ear tufts. We removed him from the net and he quickly quieted down. We observed him for several minutes and then let him fly away. We then caught one small, red bat. We checked him out, stayed away from his sharp teeth, and let him go also. Several other sessions covered mushrooms, backyard wildlife, and people and their environment.

To find out more about the Junior IMN program, or the adult version, go to www.indianamasternaturalist.org or contact **CONTINUED UPPER LEFT COLUMN**

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Ramblings from Da Region



by Gene Clifford

Gobbler's can humble us

The mature male wild turkey is no doubt the most unpredictable, confounding and maddening creature in the woods you'll ever encounter. People who pursue him, especially in the spring gobbling season, are nothing short of being pure masochists. Webster's definition of the word is "taking pleasure in being abused or dominated".

It's so unfair how we humans use our far superior knowledge and manufactured technology to try to bring to our bag, this fat, wobbly, old horny bird.

There are a few other reasons for us to take on the challenge of outsmarting Mr. Long beard. Their eyesight approaches that of America's symbolic bird, the Bald Eagle. If you move a muscle at the wrong time, that Tom you thought you had on a string is headed for the next county. Their hearing takes no back seat to their eyesight either. I once attended a turkey hunting seminar at which the speaker stated that if a turkey had a nose like a deer, you'd probably never kill one.

It may be that despite your best owl-hooting and hen-yelping, the toms in your neck of the woods may be just unwilling to communicate with you, or they may just be shackled up with their harem of hens, and you can just go fly a kite for all they're concerned. Frustration is often the lot for pursuing them.

Nonetheless, hunting them in the early spring, when you can sit there and hear the woods around you wake up, can end up being a fine and sometimes miserable memory. And sometimes when you do bag a Tom, all is forgotten, as to how they unseemly kept you on the hook.

Turkey hunting isn't a science, as that implies precision and exactness.

I have to admit that even after hunting these overgrown Banty Roosters for almost 20 years, I don't know didly-squat about the sport. All that one can be certain about in this sport, is there are no certainties.

It has been said that all turkey hunters share numerous traits, such as devotion bordering on

mental imbalance as they view their near religious experience as having a pronounced tendency towards uncontrollable compulsion.

The road I've traveled has been one with many mishaps, miscues, and misses. Still, I've enjoyed every damned minute of it, because running through this is a common thread of mystique and magic.

If you hunt turkeys and haven't had memorable moments of misery, like setting stone- still in a sleet storm , as a tom approaches from 200 plus yards away, then you either aren't hunting enough, have a misaligned mind-set, or need to see your friendly psychiatrist.

Being tempted and tormented all in the same moment comes with the territory. It's the lack of predictability that gives turkey hunting its appeal to us yahoos. That's why the stories being told, have such embellishment by the teller.

The fickle finger of Fate has shown it's ugly head much more often than Lady Luck waving her magic wand.

I've misjudged distance more than I want to admit at this time. A few years back, the most recent year I got Skunked, I couldn't hit a bull in the behind with a bass fiddle, if you know what I mean. I now have a rangefinder, like the big boys have, and we'll see if it improves my accuracy in judging distance.

I've been blindsided by silent sneaky birds suddenly appearing in my decoys, with the thought racing thru my mind, Holy Schmitt, where did they come from?

These tales of woe are only the leading edge of the oncoming avalanche of things that can go wrong. It makes you ask yourself, "Why oh why do I keep hunting these turkeys?"

As a fraternity, turkey hunters seem to lavish in the misery, so why should I be any different?

As long as we keep making these mistakes, we'd better start learning from them, and so long as America's most noble bird, with the marble sized brain can reduce us to jibbering idiots, this sport will continue to be a marvelous madness.

HOW TO SCORE A GOBBLER

Once the euphoria has subsided from you downing that boss gobbler, it's time to see how your bird measures up. There's a simple scoring system used by the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTFF).

Step 1: Weigh your bird in pounds and ounces. A digital fish scale works just fine. Make sure to convert the ounces to decimals by dividing by 16. (Example: 3 ounces divided by 16= 0.1875)

Step 2: With a measuring tape, measure each spur. Measure the outside of the spur to get an accurate measurement. Add spur measurements together and multiply by 10. The total will be the number of points you will receive for the turkey's spurs.

Step 3: Measure the beard length. Measure from the point where the beard begins next to the skin out to the tip of the beard. Convert the measurement to decimal format (follow the link at the end of this article for the conversion chart). Next multiply the decimal form by 2. This will be the number for the turkey's beard. For multiple beards on a typical, add each beard together and multiply by 2

Step 4: Add together the weight, the points for spurs and points for beard(s). This is the final score you receive for your turkey.

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The Rushville Downtown area is experiencing some road construction this summer. Fields' Outdoor Adventures is located one block southeast of the Rush County Courthouse on Perkins Street. When coming into Rushville from any direction, go one block east of Main Street (State Road 3) and go south to the corner of Perkins & Water Street. See you soon!



Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

Survival Of The Unfit

During what many consider as one of the worst winters in years I spent a lot of time sitting at the patio doors watching the birds flit around the feeders and the squirrels digging in the ice for hickory nuts and acorns. Food was in short supply for much of the wildlife around our place as ice and snow covered everything. As for me, a trip to the mailbox was comparable to what Sir Edmund Hillary may have endured on his way to the top of Mt. Everest. For two days I got there before the mailman and had to repeat the trip. Let's see old Edmund match that.

Considering the wildlife, I watched the poor things scrounge around for any edible tidbit they could find. The little panhandlers would empty the feeders faster than a congressman on his way to the bank. Twice, while filling the bird feeders and my wife warning me against such folly, I ended up on my back with bird seed scattered everywhere. According to my wife, who watched from the patio doors, my bum made cute little dimples in the snow covered ice, but I noticed that she didn't make any effort to come help me up.

Later, with ice packs on my back as I watched Oprah grill one of her victims, I wondered whether todays modern man or woman could survive if they were suddenly cut off from Walmart, Marsh Supermarkets and McDonalds. What would the result be if every power grid in the country suddenly shut down and every refrigerator, freezer and t.v. set died. Could we survive without food and Oprah? What would the end result be when our Dodge Ram 2500 pickup truck with 350 horsepower and 400 foot pounds of torque, ran out of gas because the pumps at Speedway no longer operate? Now, being without food is unsettling, but the truck running out of gas is really horrifying. With these thoughts in mind, I decided to put myself in that situation to see what the average person would do to survive what could become a savage jungle, where the survival of the fittest would be the only rule.

First, there are the three basic things that are required: food, clothing, and shelter. Taking these in order, food is first and foremost. The average savage has at his disposal a limited number of ways to attain food. They are, traps baited with Hostess Ho-Ho's, M&M's or a slice of low fat cheese. After all, we have to be sure that whatever we eat is low in polyunsaturated fat. Next we have the bow and arrow. This method requires a

little practice prior to the calamity, which can be attained at any local indoor range. The archer must consider that hitting a rabbit at one hundred yards might be a little tricky, which means that it might be a good idea to practice your stalking skills. Finally, I prefer a Remington Model 700 in 7.62x51 with a 4x16 variable scope, a Harris Bi-Pod and sling. With this you don't have to worry about sneaking up on dinner. Just bang away and get out the skillet.

Next is clothing. Running around naked in an apocalyptic world probably wouldn't cause a fuss, but it would be a little uncomfortable in the middle of the winter. Unless you have a lot of rabbits who are willing to donate their skins you'll probably have to depend on the car cover in your garage. From a fashion standpoint, consider how good you'll look in something from the Pep Boys collection. As a last ditch solution, consider the hide from a two hundred pound buck. Around here, a two hundred pound buck is rare, so you may have to settle for a bikini. Of course, if you have no knowledge of the tanning process, you'll probably have to put up with a lot of insects. Remember to leave off the antlers because there will no doubt be a number of other primitives out there armed with Remington Model 700's looking for a hide to wear.

With all this in mind you should have no trouble with adequate clothing. But shelter could be a problem. Native Americans were capable of building shelters from whatever materials were readily available. US English descendent's are a different story. We require more than the basic necessities when it comes to survival. In order to make a dwelling a home there are certain items that make the difference between comfort and simply maintaining life. First, in order to construct a dwelling from the available materials, a good chain saw is necessary. One with at least a 14" blade, preferably 24" if it is available at your local trading post. Do not select an electric powered model. Then, you must make the decision whether to construct a ranch style single story wikipup or a two story model to meet your requirements for protection and comfort. Most people think they could survive without certain items, but that is not true. Survivalists say you should keep an ample supply of batteries on hand in case of emergency. If you have followed this advice, there is no reason why your cell phone and your GPS wouldn't work, at least until the batteries die. Being so prepared you can keep in contact with friends and family and also know exactly where you are lost.

By following your basic primitive instincts you can survive even the worst of calamities as long as you have at least five gallons of gasoline for the chain saw, a complete set of carpentry tools, a lifetime supply of AAA batteries and above all a Remington Model 700 in 7.62x51 with 5000 rounds of ammo.

It might be pleasant to return to the old frontier days and re-experience what our forefathers had to endure to make this country great. On the other hand, maybe you shouldn't forget a generator and a t.v. set. California would probably get its power back first and it would be neat to watch Oprah with a tousled hairdo and wearing an elk hide shift. Don't for-

get the Dual Survivor show with Dave Canterbury.

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by Don Bickel, Forester

Spider Rigging

Slow trolling, spider rigging, or just a leisurely way to fish - until the fish start biting. The method requires the use of multiple rods, line holding reels, (there's no casting) and a boat with rod holders, depth finder and trolling motor.

Trolling for fish means taking the bait to the fish. Fishing with a bobber, whether a red & white plastic ball or a delicately balanced slip bobber is generally considered as casting to a location and waiting for the fish to come to the bait. Whether slow trolling and soaking bait under a bobber, both methods have their place depending on fishing conditions.

Slow trolling in Indiana with two anglers in the boat is not spider rigging by definition. Spiders have 8 legs and with Indiana's rule of no more than 3 rods per angler, this means only 6 rods arrayed across the boat's bow. So, it's an insect, not a spider, but the method is the same.

My Sylvan Navigator at 16 feet is set up to hold 6 rods on a bow-mounted rod holder and if in a situation where more than 3 rods per angler is legal (Kentucky or Tennessee) additional rod holders can be fastened to the boat rail.

But, back to the beginning. Having seen a num-



Slow trolling setup (Spider Rigging) on a 16 foot Sylvan Navigator, side view. (Photo by Don Bickel)

ber of spider (multiple rods) rigs on southern waters, I had a general idea of what I would attempt to achieve. First problem, how to mount 2 swivel seats, using 2 of the three presently in the Sylvan. Floor mounts were out, since the attachment would be directly over and through a portion of the live well.

The solution - a 1 X 12.7 foot maple board laid rail to rail, in front of the steering console. Using a hole saw, the diameter of the seat shaft, two holes were bored, 2 feet from center making the swivel seats 4 feet apart. Under each seat, a 4 X 4 was placed in order to prevent the board from sagging with the angler's weight.

Two people could now sit side by side and the original bow seat floor mount was yet in place about 15 inches in front of the newly positioned seats. The foot control for the trolling motor could be positioned for use by the angler on either new seat position.

Next problem - mounting a rod holder which would hold 6 rods and be easily accessible to either angler. The bow seat base provided the solution. The rod holding structure was made of 2 inch PVC plastic pipe, which would be held in place by the bow seat base. The PVC rig was T-shaped and the arms of the T provided the place to mount the rodholders.

A number of rod holder designs are on the market, I elected to use Bass Pro's Basic Rod Holder. With the rod holder, I eliminated the clamp-on base, using a 3 inch 1/4 inch carriage bolt to hold the holder to the PVC cross piece by means of a drilled hole. The 6 rod holders are spaced about 10 inches apart, allowing room to swivel the rod in any direction.

Again, going to the Bass Pro Shops catalog, the rods and reels are Crappie Maxx Slab Grabber Combos. The rods are 10 and 12 feet length. While these rods are 2-piece, fiberglass extension poles in the long lengths will also

serve the purpose using small or ultra-light spinning or baitcasting reels.

The reels hold 8 to 10 pound test monofilament with a small snap swivel on the end. A 3 foot length of 4 pound test is tied with a 3/8 to 1 ounce bass casting sinker on one end and a loop on the other. 10 inches from the sinker, tie a double overhand knot that results in a 2 inch loop. A second loop is tied 12 inches above the first. Hooks or jigs are then tied to the loops. The top loop allows fastening to the snap swivel.

Line weight can be adjusted according to fishing conditions. In bait fishing, if thin wire No. 4, 6 or 8 hooks are used, they will often bend if snagged. The sinker should be of enough weight to maintain straight up and down positioning of the line while underway with the trolling motor. Maintain a bait depth of approximately 1 foot off bottom by monitoring the depth finder.

The trolling motor is operated at it's slowest speed or the boat is allowed to drift with the wind. An occasional nudge with the trolling motor will keep it on course. Each angler monitors the tip end of his or her 3 rods. A sensitive rod tip is an absolute necessity.

This is a passive type of fishing, with little energy required and an ideal arrangement for the beginning angler with a coach. With 3 rods each, when a hungry school of bluegill or crappie are encountered, there is little time for day-dreaming.

This writer welcomes comments or inquiries at edgeofthepairie@sbcglobal.net.

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Spider rigging from a different view. (Photo by Don Bickel)

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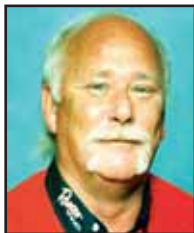
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First place - Left Doren and Lauren Smith on the right.



Second place and Big Fish - Left Billy Dahlem, David Copeland on the right.



LARRY CRECELIUS
Media Specialist

Articles & Photos
by Larry Crecelius



Cabela's King Kat Tournament Results for Lake Tawakoni

On March 5th the Cabela's King Kat Tournament Trail hit the waters of Lake Tawakoni at the West Tawakoni City Park where anglers were competing not only for cash and prizes, but the opportunity to qualify for the 2011 Cabela's King Kat Classic. This year's Cabela's King Kat Classic will be held on the Mississippi River at Burlington, Iowa October 27-28-29, 2011.

Once again the weather provided some major challenges as temperatures dropped 25 degrees from Friday to Saturday and winds changed from the south to the NNW at 17-30mph. Teams reported 4-6 feet high waves on the main lake and the only fishable waters were tucked back in the coves.

Results for the Top 5 Teams

Taking first place was the Stigler, Oklahoma team of Doren and Lauren Smith with a weight of 141.65 pounds and earning \$2,700.00. Doren and Lauren were fishing the south end of the lake targeting 24-26 feet of water using cut shad. The team caught a total of 7 fish for the day, but that's all they needed to take 1st place in the event. Teams are allowed to weigh in their top 5 fish by weight at the end of the day.

In second place was Billy Dahlem of Gans, Oklahoma and David Copeland of Marble City of Oklahoma with a weight of 129.3 pounds and earning \$1,000.00. Billy and David were fishing in 15-20 feet of water on the south end of the lake using large shad and catching a total of 8 fish for the day. Billy and David also caught big fish of the event with a 52.75 pound cat which earned them an additional \$500.00.

Third place went to Chris Taylor of Pocola, Oklahoma and Sam Morris of Temple, Texas with a total weight of 100 pounds and earning \$500.00. Chris and Sam were fishing near the dam on the south side of the lake in 25 feet of water using big shad and catching 8 fish for the day.

Rickey Snow of Quinlan, Texas and Sonny Batchelor of Wills Point, Texas took fourth place with a weight of 87.7 pounds and earning \$400.00. Rickey and Sonny were fishing the north end of the lake in 2 feet of water using shad to catch 4 fish for the day.

Fifth place went to Ryan Gnagy of Tecumseh, Kansas and Jeremy Munger of St. Joseph, Missouri weighing in 83 pounds and earning \$300.00. Ryan and Jeremy were fishing near Duck Cove in 19-23 feet of water using cut shad and catching 10 fish for the day.

For more information check out our new website at www.kingkatusa.com.

We would like to thank the West Tawakoni EDC for sponsoring the event and 429 RV Park and Marina for being the host hotel for this event.

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Cabela's King Kat Tawakoni Weigh In Results

Team Name	Day 1	Big Fish
Smith, Doren - Smith, Lauren OK/OK	141.65	47.05
Dahlem, Billy - Copeland, David OK/OK	129.3	52.75
Taylor, Chris - Morris, Sam OK/TX	100.0	0.01
Snow, Rickey - Batchelor, Sonny TX/TX	87.70	40.35
JGnagy, Ryan - Munger, Jeremy KS/MO	83.00	0.01
Ewing, Roy - Cummings, Jason TX/TX	68.95	0.01
Miles, Paul - Milles, Dan TX/TX	61.65	0.01
Kropff, Jerry - Bond, John OK/OK	52.00	37.90
Moore, Jason - Burnett, Mike TX/TX	52.00	0.01
Parks, Kevin - True, Brian KS/KS	47.15	0.01
Teague, Ronald - Chapman, Jack OK/OK	42.15	0.01
Evans, Lamar TX	40.40	0.01
McBride, Jeff - Cheyenne TX/TX	34.05	0.01
Burger, Caleb - Schifffelbein, Chris KS/KS	33.45	0.01
Lutke, Lance - Alexander, Ben TX/OK	28.10	0.01
Allison, Kenneth - Allison, Harold TX	27.55	0.01
Key, Johnny - White, Sam AR/AR	26.50	0.01
Cook, Ryan - Frankowiak, Scott TX/TX	24.55	0.01
Gerloff, Roger - Cook, Justin MO/MO	21.75	0.01
Williams, Marvin - Harrell, Aaron OK/OK	20.30	0.01

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Third place- Left Sam Morris, Chris Taylor on the right.



Fourth place- Left Sonny Batchelor, Rickey Snow on the right.

Batchelor, H.S., Batchelor, Ryan KS/TX	20.25	0.01
Bredon, Scott - Bredon, Herman KS/KS	18.95	0.01
Littlejohn, Michael - Shipman, Teri TX/TX	14.85	0.01
Randolph, Daniel - Hasting, Beeka MO/MO	12.90	0.01
Griffith, Chad - Reat, Bubba TX	0.01	0.01
Gipson, Chase - Barton, Jason TX	0.01	0.01
Ingram, Bobby - Miller, Carry TX/TX	0.01	0.01
Studebaker, David, Blankenship, CJ KS/KS	0.01	0.01
Anderjeski, John - Willis, Joel, TX	0.01	0.01
Roedell, Tommy - White, Ronnie OK/OK	0.01	0.01
Penn, Larry - Smith, Donnie TX/TX	0.01	0.01
Brooks, Gary - Adams, Jeff OK/OK	0.01	0.01
Gravley, Tom - Akers, Larry TX/TX	0.01	0.01
Koll, Josh - Hezy, Matt NE/NE	0.01	0.01
Hunt, Daniel - Patton, Andrew TX/TX	0.01	0.01

(Guaranteed payback of \$10,000.00)
 The Cabela's King Kat Tournament Trail is the opportunity for catfish anglers and clubs to advance to a new level with a major payback and media recognition for their abilities. The trail is a team event. Teams will consist of one or two persons with one exception. A third person may accompany the team provided the third person is under 16 years of age or over 65 years of age. Entry fee for this tournament is \$200.00 per team.

Weight-In Site
 The tournament weigh-in will be held at the Paul Ogle Riverfront Park in Vevay. Tournament hours each day will be from **6:30 AM until 3:00 PM**. All anglers must be in weigh-in line by **4:00 PM** with a limit of 5 catfish per team each day. To help preserve the sport of competitive Catfishing only live fish will be weighed in and all fish will be released during or after the tournament. For a complete list of rules phone or visit our website listed below. Anglers be sure to stick around after the weigh in for the sponsor product give away.

Registration (Anglers Notice New Registration Times)
 Registration will be held on Thursday night from **(5:00PM till 7:00PM)** with a Captains meeting to be held at **(7:00PM)**. The Captains meeting will be held at the Ogle Haus Inn, 1013 West Main Street in Vevay.
 (Notice) There will not be a Captains meeting the morning of the event like in years past. All rules will be covered at the Thursday night registration and meeting. This new registration time will allow anglers to enter the water at **5:00AM** tournament

morning and also allow more time for teams to reach their destination and start fishing promptly at **6:30AM**. Legal waters for this event will be from the Meldahl Dam to the Cannelton Dam on the Ohio River.
Event Host and Host Lodging For The Event
 The Switzerland County Tourism would like to welcome the Cabela's King Kat Anglers and their guest to the area and hope they take the time to enjoy the many sites and attractions in the area. For more information call: **1-(800)-435-5688** or visit their website at: www.vevayin.com. Host lodging for the event will be the Ogle Haus Inn, 1013 West Main Street in Vevay. For reservations call: **(812) 427-2020**. Be sure to make reservations early to assure you get a room and be sure to mention Cabela's King Kat Tournament Trail.
 Catfish clubs and organizations may register with the King Kat Tournament Trail and qualify your top 2 teams from each event to fish in the Cabela's King Kat Classic for their support in promoting the tournament trail.

To register call **270-395-6774** or email at dvanvactor@kingkatusa.com.
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Vevay, Indiana to Host Cabela's King Kat "2-Day \$10,000.00 Super Event"

The Cabela's King Kat Tournament Trail will hit the waters of the Ohio River at Vevay, Indiana Friday and Saturday **April 1 & 2, 2011** for a 2-day \$10,000.00 Super Event. This is the opportunity for local catfish anglers to compete for cash, prizes totaling \$10,000.00 and a chance to advance to the Cabela's King Kat Classic to be held on the Mississippi River at Burlington, Iowa **October 27-28-29, 2011**.



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Fifth place- Left Ryan Gnagy, Jeremy Munger on the right.

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Hoosier Horse Happenings



by Rhonda Helming

Up Arena at Madison, Indiana.

Both of these clinics were great. I just can't say enough good about them.

The first clinic was held in June and boy was it hot and wet! People started rolling in on Friday evening to get their horses settled and trailers parked and ready to go on Saturday morning. My daughter, Leah, rode in the Chad Crider Clinic and this is her perspective on it...

"I have never been to a clinic before I attended the Chad Crider Clinic. It was an awesome experience! I was moving from my seasoned barrel horse to a young barrel horse. Needless to say, I needed some help getting started. My seat went to the birds, so did my hands, feet, and some of my confidence as a rider too. The clinic showed me how to regain my seat, remember how to place my hands and feet, and most important, regain my confidence as a skilled rider. I forgot how good of a rider I was. Young horses tend to make you feel stupid.

Crider showed me many different ways to practice with my young mare, and I have continued using these techniques. We loped circles, squared, and sometimes we just loped in a straight line because my mare needed to find her feet; meaning that she did not know where or how to place them when we were running. Also, she liked to switch leads running, and the straight

line helped her to become more coordinated.

Next the instructor showed me ways to keep my horse from anticipating our turns. My horse is very smart, like all smart creatures, they think they know it all and do not need to practice. I'm glad he showed me many different ways because my horse gets bored easily by doing the same things over and over again. The clinic also showed me that my horse is decent in poles too. When we met one on one, he told me that he had nothing bad to say, except I needed to start running her now. It was, overall, a good learning experience. For more information on Chad Crider go to www.criderbarrelhorses.com, or email Chad at chadcrider@hotmail.com."

Now, I got to go to a Troy Crumine Clinic and this is what I learned...

I can ride a barrel horse and my brother did an excellent job of training my mare, Bia. But let me tell you a little something about my experience, I didn't get to participate in the Crider Clinic back in June, but I got to watch and take pictures. When a friend of mine called and wanted to know if I wanted to attend a barrel clinic myself, and I said sure, why not? So off we went. Of course my best friend, Nat, went along with me on this adventure. I was a nervous wreck. It's different to sit back and watch, but when you are participating, it's a whole

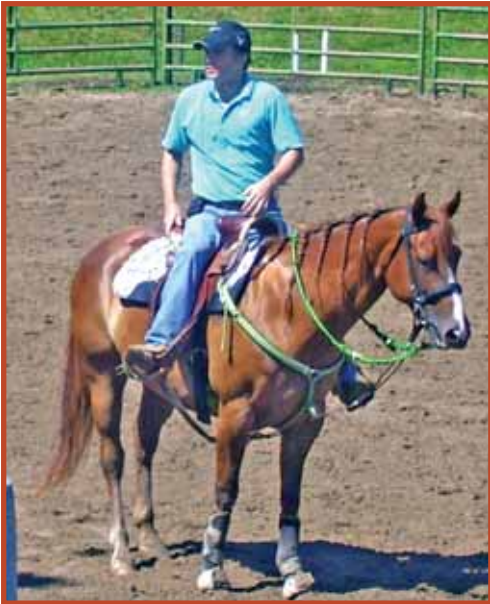


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Barrel Clinics as told by my daughter and I

What is a barrel racing clinic? Barrel racing clinics are designed for the rider who is just starting out, and those who already have experience barrel racing and just want a better understanding of the basics. The clinics are not for a beginner rider. You do need to know how to ride a horse.

I had the opportunity to attend two this year. One was held at our local 4-H fairgrounds. We had about eighteen participants and that is really a number I feel works well. The other was at Saddle



Chad Crider on my daughter's horse, Lady. (Photo by Rhonda Helming)

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new ballgame.

So we arrived Friday evening and got the horses settled in and ready for a day of riding on Saturday. Saturday rolls around and we are up and ready for our big day. Now everyone knows I have been procrastinating on giving up my old mare, Sucha, for Bia. I just knew that this famous barrel trainer, who has won so many awards, money and saddles, was going to make me feel like a fool, who didn't know how to ride, well was I ever wrong!

So we all gathered in the arena. There were about 18 of us, and that was really good for a clinic! Troy stepped into the arena and said, "Who wants to go first?" Everyone just sat there and looked around, I felt like I was back in school. What have I got to loose is what I thought. I stepped up on Bia. Troy says, "What do you want to do with your mare?" I was like, "well, I want to run barrels." "Well," Troy said, "Let's see you run a set". I looked at him like he had two heads. "Now?" I said. He said, "Well, yeah!"

Now, you have to understand that even though my brother had ridden her back in the late winter and I had trail rode her all summer, I had yet to run her through a set of barrels. Well okay, it's now or never. So I checked my saddle to make sure its nice and tight, then proceeded to climb on her and go to run her. I loped my circle and sent her to the first barrel. We did okay and I am still on, so I went around the second and third then run home. Troy said to me, "Not too bad." I looked at him and say that is the first time I sent her through a set. He just looked at me. I'm pretty sure he really didn't know what to think about that. After Troy watched us all run our patterns, he then stepped up and called us back into the pen and proceeded to show us what we were doing wrong, and how to correct it. He had us loping circles, getting our horse to give to us, turning off the wall, what we were doing was teaching our horses to trust us. It was all done very slow and very easy with your hands. Believe it or not he told me I was doing a good job with my hands and feet. Bia was a very good horse to ride, she did whatever was asked of her without to much hesitation.

All in all, our funny stories aside it was a great working and learning experience. I found out my mare was, and is, very well trained. She goes anywhere I ask her, and does anything I ask her to. Troy showed us how to get more out of our horses with very little anxiety on the part of me or my horse. Troy rode every one of our horses and helped us fix our problems.

The next day, we took what Troy showed us the day before and applied it to our runs. I for one can tell you that I had a 100% improvement from the ride the day before. This clinic helped boost my confidence, because as my daughter stated earlier, young horses for me are hard to ride, they make you think all the time, and you never know if you are going to have a good run or they are going to act like they have never seen a barrel pattern

before.

The next weekend I was able to attend a horse show and I took Bia, she placed us in the money! Then, the next weekend we went to another show, and she and I did horrible. I will keep on trucking down the road with her, and keep on practicing. If I want to get her seasoned to where my old mare is, that is what has to be done. I am hoping that I will be able to attend another Troy Crumrine clinic this

summer. For more information about Troy, visit their website at www.crumrineextreme.com/.

Until next month everyone stay safe and get those horses in shape ready to ride! It's gonna be an awesome Spring and Summer. Don't forget...Hoosier Horse Fair will be going on April 1, 2, and 3!

If you have any questions, please email me at thehelmings@psci.net.

F2 TORNADO MAKES UNWELCOME VISIT TO CELESTINE, INDIANA ON FEBRUARY 28, 2011



To give a comparison of a photo of a F2 tornado here is one that hit southeast of Dimmitt, Texas on June 2, 1995. Credit: NOAA Photo Library, NOAA Central Library; OAR/ERL/National Severe Storms Laboratory (NSSL)

I got the following two e-mails from Rhonda Helming who writes "Hoosier Horse Happenings." This was quite a surprise to me, I hadn't heard of the F2 tornado hitting in Indiana on Monday, Feb 28. I'm thankful she, her family and horses made it through the tornado okay.

March 4, 2011 Ray,

Here is my April article. I feel very lucky to be able to send you this article. We were one of the counties in Southern IN hit by the F2 Tornado. Now that was a wild ride!! I feel lucky to be here. There are about 8 homes totalled out, with about 15 more with severe damage. We were lucky, it only took out about 15 of our trees, all my fences are either damaged or gone and part of my barn roof is gone.

The horses were in the barn! I can only imagine what they were going through. This happened about 3:30 am. We were asleep and no sirens went off. It is gonna be a mess around my place for quite some time.

March 8, 2011 Ray,

It hit around 3:30 am on Monday morning. No warning. We have about 7 or 8 homes destroyed in our area that's not including the homes that were heavily damaged. It hit the subdivision up in Celestine. So we are cutting trees, the good side of the thing is we will have plenty of firewood for the up coming winter. So I am pretty sure my next article will be on how to handle a tornado when you own horses!

Rhonda Helming

Tornadoes confirmed in Indiana

John Seewer | Associated Press
A tornado hit Celestine, a town of about 250 people in Dubois County, and damaged two homes and a double-wide trailer, the weather service said.
The Journal Gazette, Fort Wayne, IN

Tornado brings widespread damage to Dubois County, Indiana. The National Weather Service is confirming that an F-2 tornado with winds up to 120 miles per hour struck Dubois County, Indiana Monday morning, causing widespread damage. **Fox41 WDRB.**

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Dog Tales



by Alan "Grizz" Smith

Dog Deals Gone Bad

I would dare to bet that if you are reading this column at some point and time you have been taken advantage of in a dog deal. And if you are truthful it has probably happened more times than you would like to admit. Sometimes I'm not sure if it's just the nature of the beast when dealing with working dogs or if there are actually that many dog hunters out there who are willing to give you the shaft to recoup some of their expenses. On one hand, hunters expect and demand a lot from their dogs. If you look at some of the prices paid for pure bred dogs whose sole purpose is to be a family pet, many of which fetch upwards of a \$1000.00, yet the average coon hunter balks at paying \$300.00 for a well bred pup. The retriever bunch seems to fall somewhere in the middle of these two groups while still expecting their dogs to perform in the field. When it comes to hunting dogs the ini-



Alan Smith, Griffin Jessup, Todd Jessup, John Lang and Patrick Shaffmaster with Rocco with 5 geese taken off of the Big Blue River. 2 Were banded. (Alan Smith Photo)

tial price of the pup is just a drop in the bucket of the expenses you will incur while trying to get that prospect formed into a hunting dog that you can be proud to take to the woods or marsh.

If you start doing the math and figure out how much it costs just to raise that dog for the first year you may go into shock. A kennel, dog house, bedding, collar, vaccinations, vet checkups, worming, heart worm medication, food and water dishes, dog feed, and the list goes on and on. Then on top of that start adding in the costs of training equipment and vehicle costs for transporting your dog to the field for training you'll soon have several thousand dollars invested in that prospect

whether you paid a thousand dollars or a hundred dollars for it. Some dogs will just never cut the grade and you will be out all of your time and money. The responsible thing to do is to put the dog into a non-hunting home as a pet, yet most hunters will try to sell the dog. In their ad they will point out every single good trait the dog has and they will throw in one bad one just to make it believable. Lots of times this dog will be sold for \$500.00 to \$800.00. That's not cheap right? So the buyer thinks he's getting a pretty good dog.

When you buy a dog you have a responsibility to protect yourself from making a bad investment. It would be nice if you could take every seller for their word but you can't. As you gain experience in dog deals you will learn what questions to ask. You have to be very specific and look for specific answers. Some questions you will want to ask are; how does the dog hunt? Is this dog mean around people? Is this dog aggressive around other dogs? How wide does this dog hunt? Does this dog get car sick? And the list goes on and on. Then when you decide the dog deserves a closer look you should spend some time working with and hunting the dog. You should hunt this dog alone and with a dog it is not used to. If it is a male dog you should definitely hunt him with another male dog. Then if you are comfortable with the transaction go ahead. This still leaves rooms for error though as some dogs do not do well when exposed to different types of terrain and some never perform well for their new owner once removed from their previous owner. It would be best to



Patrick Shaffmaster with Rocco, Melani Shaffmaster, John Lang, Robert Mueller Jr. with Gunner, Alan Smith and Chad Dunkel with Gunner. 23 geese taken during the February season. (Alan Smith Photo)

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Thirty geese that were taken during the February season. Picture taken as the sun was setting in the background. Front row; Alan Smith, Chad Dunkel with Gunner, Josh Rauch and John Lang. Back row; Robert Mueller Jr., Dustin Voelkel and Patrick Shaffmaster. (Alan Smith Photo)

get a trial period if the owner will allow one. Some will give a trial, some will not. Some will want more money for the trial period. Then you will have to make a judgment call. Also all registration papers should be in order at the time of the transaction.

I have been at this game for 32 years. I've definitely had my share of bad dog deals. I've also saved myself from several others. And on occasion I still let my guard down, which is almost always a mistake, and take someone on their word. The last time I did this was a whole 2 weeks ago on a Labrador retriever deal. I've got a feeling I really screwed up! Time will tell. I was short on time, the seller seemed very honest and sincere. I wanted to believe him and even though I had a few last minute thoughts about this dog I took the seller on his word. It was against my better judgment and yet I did it anyway. Some of us will never learn I guess. It would be easy to be mad at the seller but I'm actually more aggravated at myself for allowing it to happen.

Well on a more positive note I would like to share a few photos from last season. One is from the regular season and the others from the February season. I have to say I enjoyed hunting these urban geese. They are nowhere near as leery as their country cousins that I'm used to hunting. In the future I'll try to follow my own advice and I hope you have no dog deals gone bad in your future as well.



Gunner in his hideout, owned by Robert Mueller Jr. (Alan Smith Photo)

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Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino

Time is right for Crappie bite

As I write this month's column, most of the area lakes and reservoirs are now only half covered with ice as the gradually warming temperatures slowing peel away more of the hard stuff each day. This can only mean that open water fishing is here, and one of the first species of fish to take a lure in the spring is the crappie.

Crappies don't actually spawn until the water temperature is between 62 and 65 degrees Fahrenheit (Although black crappies may start a little earlier and white crappies a little later.) but they begin actively seeking out suitable areas to spawn when the water is much cooler than that – around 55 degrees or so. So, while it may be close to May before they actually spawn, the month of April can hold tons of great crappie action as well, especially in southern Indiana.

Once winter has released her grip on the lakes, reservoirs and ponds, the males are the first ones to begin their ascent into shallower water from their deeper winter haunts. The males begin to prepare nests for the females to lay their eggs in and most nests are constructed in 2 to 10 feet of water in areas with gravel or hard bottoms. They can be caught before nest making begins in slightly deeper water, in the 8 to 15 foot depth range. Then, when the males move even shallower to prepare the nests, the females will be staging in that 8 to 15 foot range. Once the nests are prepared and the females are ready to lay their eggs, they will move into the nests to drop their eggs before moving back into somewhat deeper water again while the males guard the nests. Persistently dropping your offerings in the nest will agitate the males and will often-times lead to a strike.

It's no secret that crappies love stick-ups and brush piles as suitable cover to both ambush prey as well as hide from predators. But they also like creek channels and coves to hang out in too. Many reservoirs have visible structure from the water's surface, but often times you will have to rely on sonar equipment in order to find submerged timber, etc. If you fish any flood control reservoirs that are lowered during the winter, visiting such impoundments during these low pool months – either by walking the shoreline or by using a boat – can reveal stumps and other structure not normally visible when the reservoir is at summer pool. You can visually make note of such structure so that you will know the general area and then locate the structure using your sonar equipment, or if you have a GPS unit, you can log the locations of such spots into it and be able to



White and Black Crappie, Credit: Artwork by Bob Hines / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

motor right to it later.

Regardless of how you approach it, crappie fishing isn't too difficult and it doesn't take pricey equipment to get in the game. Sure, logging areas into a GPS unit or spider-rigging with your boat are options for serious crappie-a-holics, but most people do just fine from the bank with a cane pole.

A simple minnow suspended under a bobber next to a stick-up will yield at least a mess of crappies most of the time. Small jigs – whether bare or coupled with a minnow – have also resulted in many meals for lots of folks as well, as have small crankbaits and spoons. The key is in finding the correct depth and structure where they are congregating. And, once you do, you are likely to catch several. Crappie congregate, or "school" which means if you catch one or two in a given location, you are bound to hook a few more.

Light or light action rods work well for thin-lipped crappies. 2, 4 or 6 lb. line will also fill the bill. Pair this set-up with the aforementioned selection of bait and lures and you have enough to start. If using bobbers, slip bobbers or spring bobbers will each work fine. Vary your presentation and depth until you find fish.

Crappie are fun to catch, provide great eating and are plentiful, which also makes them a perfect species to target when taking youngsters or newbies. With a minimal amount of gear you can be into a mess of paper mouths, and the time is just around the corner!

Camping Here and Beyond

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

each trip, I believe each person had done their chores at least once or twice and on longer trips the task was done three or more times by each person.

The schedule we set was rather rigorous and each person knew that if they didn't accomplish their personal responsibility or anyone was too slow, we'd need to cancel an up and coming planned activity. If it was swimming in the Gulf of Mexico or in the Atlantic Ocean, a boat trip up or down the Mississippi, going to Busch Gardens, Disney, Universal Studio, or to the Hard Rock Cafe, they were always ahead of schedule.

At first on each trip some scoffed at having a guide for a hike in a State or National Park, or for a float trip in Cajun territory of Louisiana, visiting a National Park Museum or displays, but they knew that if they wanted to do "fun" activities we had to be on schedule. Usually I didn't hear any complaints and I even heard my planned scheduled activities were really enjoyable. We billed them as educational school field experiences.

More group camping experiences are coming in the May Gad-a-bout. If you have anything about camping you want discussed, call us at: 260-637-3524 or e-mail us at: jmacnut@yahoo.com. John and El McCorry



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Bottom left to right: the names are Josh Milligan, Crosby Jackman, Levi Milligan, Aaron Evans, Samantha Settles. Top left to right: Garnett Dennison, Jeff Milligan, Jeremy Morgan, Chris Dewitt, David Settles, David Ellis. The dogs' name is Dakota. (Quail Forever Photo)

Quail Forever #3049 Blue River Chapter Youth Hunt

Opening day of pheasant season! Off to the clubhouse for breakfast, biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, orange juice and the necessary cup of coffee for the adults. Afterwards the officers hold an all important safety meeting to teach the youth the importance of handling firearms and watching out for fellow hunters. All young hunters are required to obtain a hunters education course and have with them the hunter's education card given to them after completion of the course.

Then it's out to catch the Pheasants and release them into the fields that have been planted for the purpose of conserving the life of the pheasant. We split the youth up into groups with a Quail Forever officer along with one of the officers' hunting dogs. Each and every youth is given the opportunity to hunt their very own bird to take home and show off to Mom.

Through out the summer months we offer different activities for the youth, preparing them for the annual pheasant hunt. Some of these activities include a target shoot, a clay bird shoot and we even have a day set aside for planting sorghum and other seed that attract these beautiful birds. All of this is made possible from the proceeds of the Quails Forever annual banquet.

The Quails Forever have also donated a wonderful Labrador retriever to the DNR. Her name is Addy. She works along the side of Ted Stine, the

DNR Officer of Shelby County on a daily basis. The DNR is a very important part of conservation, making us safe when we hunt or fish. Ted and Addy are trained to keep the bad guys running in a straight line, so our youth learn from good examples.

Our Quails Forever officers are thriving to get our youth into productive activities, to teach them the proper ways of hunting and conservation. Without the conservation there is no wild life. Without wildlife there is no conservation.

Quails Forever has a spectacular group of people. Tim Weaver (president), David Settles (Vice-President), Duane Smith (Secretary), Susie Suiter (Treasurer), Sheryl Settles (Youth Chairman), Garnet Dennison (Habitat Chairman) and a great bunch of sponsors and volunteers that make all of this possible for our youth.

To all of our officers and volunteers thank you for all of your help and donations.

Our banquet is scheduled for 8/27/11. Feel free to contact one of us at anytime for information. Tim Weaver (317-491-2936) or David Settles (317-439-5688)

back?

During 2010 the IC3 website received its 2 millionth complaint in November. The web site started operation in 2000, and didn't reach its millionth complaint until 2007. It took about half that time to register the next million complaints, showing how common these scams have become. If you feel you've been a victim, the website for a complaint is www.ic3.gov.

We've all heard comedian Bill Engvall's comedy routine, "here's your sign." Recently during the ice and snow storm, Lt. Burke and I experienced one of these "here's your sign" moments. I-70 westbound traffic had been stopped and backed up for over an hour with four semi's within a couple miles or so of each other hanging precariously over overpasses, obviously blocking the interstate. We finally had gotten enough personnel in place to direct traffic around and off of I-70 onto US 27 into Richmond.

The Lt. and I were directing traffic at US 27, during a raging snow squall in 20 degree weather and high winds, when an out of state car pulls up, stops and blocks everything. The driver calmly rolled down his window and asked the one question that invariably gets asked in this situation every time. He shouts out "Hey, is the interstate closed?" Sir, if you're out there somewhere reading this.....

Well this brings to close another month's installment. Thanks again for reading the article and allowing all of us to serve all of you. You can contact me anytime at jbowling@isp.in.gov. Be safe out there and we will talk again next month.

News From The Indiana State Police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

asked if they had entered a sweepstakes. They all answered no. Then how can you win without entering? Besides, when have you ever heard of sending money to a sweepstakes to get money

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Claude Wade holding a nice smallmouth bass caught from river.



1st Right Photo: Jason Roberts guides his boat to fishing spot. 2nd Right Photo: Fishing Guide Jason Roberts caught this Spotted Bass. 3rd Right Photo: Walleye caught from the river, a veritable source for a smorgasbord of fish.

Spring on the River

Article and Photos by Claude Wade

Retired Entomologist
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Certainly there is no better time to take a fishing trip to the river or lake than in the Spring. After a long hard winter, the water is warming up and the fish are hungry.

The fishing shows provide information on how to catch fish and where to locate them. A good guide that knows the river can help make your day on the river worthwhile. He knows the river or lake and where the fish are located. He can put you on the fish and tell you what lures to use to catch the fish.

The boat ride on the river can be exciting as the guide speeds up or down the river at speeds of up to 35 miles per hour as he dodges tree branches, rocks and other obstacles in the water. His boat is jet propelled and he doesn't have to worry about a propeller hitting a stump or rock.

The scenery along the river is wonderful. You may see bald eagles, great blue herons, king fishers, Canadian geese, ducks, and other wildlife along the river.

Trees will be putting out new green leaves and wildflower will be blooming along the bank. Big and little mushrooms will be sticking their spongy heads up out of the forest floor.

I ask what better medicine for cabin fever than a day on the river with a guide like Jason Roberts? See you down the river. Who knows, you might even catch a big small mouth bass.

Jason Roberts owns Honey Creek Tackle in Bargersville, Indiana.

A Note from Claude:

"I enjoy The Gad-a-bout, I pick it up at Ed's Trading Post in Nineveh. You use to stop in Indianapolis. Claude Wade, Retired from Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Entomology."



One of Spring's bounty - Morel mushrooms along the river bank.

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KAMPFIRE KOOKIN'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

it isn't proper English.)

Wash ramps and cut into 1/3's
Cook bacon in a large skillet until crisp. Remove and set aside.

Add the ramps to the bacon grease and cook just until wilted.

Drain grease and put cooked ramps into a large bowl. Add crumbled bacon to the ramps and stir in. Put a few sliced boiled eggs on top and serve with a little vinegar or lemon juice. Serve with fried potatoes (taters), cornbread, and fried ham slices.

Some information about Ramps:

- 1)-Ramps are akin to onion and garlic.
- 2)-The ramp seed will lay dormant for many years.
- 3)-Ramps are eaten by deer, turkey, and groundhogs in early spring.
- 4)-Ramps will continue to grow under the late snows in early spring.
- 5)-It takes about five years for a ramp to be fully matured.
- 6)-Ramps appear starting the last of February and the first of March.
- 7)-There are white ramps and red ramps. Red are more predominant.
- 8)-Ramps are known to cause you to have funny dreams.
- 9)-Ramp seeds can be gathered in September.
- 10)-Ramps can be dehydrated and used months later.
- 11)-Dehydrated ramps can be crumbled and used like a seasoning.
- 12)-The ramp is a member of the Lily family.

If you would like more information on Ramps contact Glen Facemire, Jr. in Richwood, WV - 26261. I don't think you need a street address as I think Glen is or was the Post Master and Richwood isn't all that big. Ask him about his book "RAMPS" From The Seed To The Weed and I think he also has a recipe booklet for sale called, Ramps and Ramp Cookin'. You might want to look up this website I found - "RAMPS! The King of Stink".

Go out and look for some other spring greens if there are no ramps where you live and serve up some "tonic weeds," when it's your turn to do the kookin' round your next kampfire. ■

Outdoors Tales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

firms. After a family vet, personnel at animal shelters or a breeder places a chip, it is tested and the ID number and information about the pet is listed with a registry service. Tyler is listed with a service called HomeAgain.

When a pet goes missing, several actions can take place. The owner of the missing pet can report it to the registration firm. If the pet is found and the chip scanned with the information reported to the firm, the owner and or vet will be contacted.

However, it only works if the person who finds your pet has it checked for a chip.

Among the information listed with HomeAgain is our email address, and on a monthly basis, the service sends me an email newsletter. The most recent one caught my attention. It contained information about five of the many 2010 successes reconnecting owners and their pets.

One of the successes was posed by a lady named Maria from Upper Black Eddy, Pa.

"Very recently, Moose and Grizzly's (pet dogs) wireless fence batteries went dead - without our knowledge. By the time my husband said, 'I wonder where the puppies are?' We looked outside where they usually played, and they were nowhere to be seen.

"Then, like someone had been listening to us, we received a call from HomeAgain. The puppies had managed to get half a mile through the dense woods behind our house, cross a major intersection, and were found walking down the street.

"We didn't pay much attention to our HomeAgain service, since we have a wireless fence, but thank goodness we had it.

"When I stopped by to personally thank our neighbors they told me that "it was a great service." All they did was make a call and they were connected to us. I'm going to renew my membership for life..."

And as I finished writing this column, I heard a story on the 11 o'clock news about a family in Miami, who had the family dog returned after it had been missing three years. It turned up at an animal shelter where it was checked for a chip. The dog was in good condition and the Florida family was extremely happy.

HomeAgain is my dog Tyler's registry because it is used by my vet. Others probably are good as well. There is no guarantee a microchip will reunite you with a missing pet, but no doubt it will increase the chances.

###

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



This red-headed woodpecker was pecking away on our walnut tree in front of our house on School while a couple of squirrels ate the seed corn at the base of the tree.



This turtle-dove has just picked up a kernel of corn and is watching me take his photo. Its mate is closer to me just in front of the porch.

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

cation and training in the area of serving individuals with physical disabilities or developmental delays. For an application, please contact your high school guidance counselor."

For further information contact: Lesli Whitney (765) 855-2482 or eastersealswu@comcast.net

MY NEIGHBORHOOD VISITORS

Since finding a use for my pile of limbs by the road here on South Street in Centerville, Indiana, feeding the birds when the ground was covered by snow and ice, for an extended period of time, quite a few species have turned up. And now I am feeding over on School too.

Following is several photos of my new found hungry friends:



I spotted this pileated woodpecker from afar, it was behind my house pecking away on February 9. Last one of these I saw was in Brown County State Park.



Black Face, a fox squirrel who I have named, he/she is the only one who will sit still when I throw it some peanuts in the shell. Here he/she is checking the size of the peanut, I think. It doesn't eat them, see next photo.



Black Face lives across the street in a tall maple tree, he has run across the street and is burying the peanut just east of his home-place. I've told him/her it isn't safe crossing School Street without looking both ways!

CONTINUED ON PAGE 30

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Gad's Corner

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Ken Rushton Group from Glenwood, Indiana. Walleye limit of 154 pounds caught 6-8-10. (Boytim Charter Service Photo, Marblehead, OH)



Josh Baker took this 185 pound Buck in Union County with a gun. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Taylor Phillips took her first deer during the youth hunt with a gun. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Ken Rushton Group from Glenwood, Indiana. Walleye limit of 193 pounds caught 6-9-10. Catch included 4 "Fish Ohio" Walleye (28 to 30 inches) (Boytim Charter Service Photo, Marblehead, OH)

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

RETIRED DNR ENTOMOLOGIST CLAUDE WADE IN THIS ISSUE

I got a packet from Claude Wade with a article and several pictures and the note below.

"I enjoy The Gad-a-bout, I pick it up at Ed's Trading Post in Nineveh. You use to stop in Indianapolis. I retired from Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Entomology."

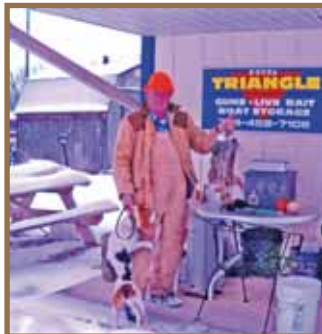
I remember Claude Wade. That was a long time ago when I published my first outdoor publication, The Outdoor Gad-a-bout, a magazine that only lasted five years, 1973 to 1978.

I used to stop at the State Office Building in downtown Indianapolis, when the 6th floor was all DNR offices. Most of the people I pestered back then have retired. I have fond memories though of many activities where I came in contact with the DNR, a few were more like confrontations, but hey, that is what makes life interesting. Probably the most interesting interactions with the DNR was the Buffalo Riders 1973 to ? I never did get nominated for any awards from the Buffalo Riders meetings, but

I did successfully nominate three winners: Bruce Hardy for Conservationist of the Year, SPUR for Conservation Organization of the Year and Joe Calas as Conservationist of the Year. I did get a nice plaque from the Law Enforcement Division for my help with TIP in the early 80's. Back then we barely ever had enough money to pay rewards. Then when Dean Shadley took over as the coordinator, things changed and TIP became the successful organization it is today. It was Dean that was responsible for my getting the only and most treasured plaque on the wall in my office from T.I.P.

2011 INDIANAPOLIS SPORT SHOW VERY DISAPPOINTING FOR ME

I planned for six months, printing extra papers for the booth location that was on my contract. I've had that same location across the aisle from the Indiana Bass Federation for the past two years. But this year when I went to set up my booth, I found that my booth had been moved to the east end of Tackle Town, next to the "Hawg Trough" booth #T563. I had told my readers in my already published, 4 Sport Show issues, December, January, February and March that I would be in booth #T337 same location as 2010. To make matters worse The Gad-a-bout name wasn't listed in the Show Brochure that listed



Jim Rowe took these rabbits in the winter of 2010. His dog's name is Mike. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)

all of the businesses attending the show, nor was The Gad-a-bout listed as an exhibitor in the listing on the internet. Consequently his year I didn't see any of the regular people who come by the booth every year to get their Gad-a-bout (s) at the show. In past years

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A view of my Gad-a-bout booth at the Indianapolis Sport Show next to seating for the "Hawg Trough" at left, across aisle from Grandt Rods booth and around the corner from the restrooms. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

I had to apologize for not having papers in Indianapolis for them, but this year I was going to tell them I was on the internet (www.thegadabout.com) now they and others can read it on my website for free every month.

Last year, 2010, people picked up a record 6500 Gad-a-bouts at my booth. I planned on having over 7000 papers there this year. Had I not been able to put papers at three other booth locations and two boat dealer locations, in the Coliseum, East and West Pavilions I wouldn't have had the 5,000 papers picked up this year. I won't have a booth at the Indianapolis Sport Show in 2012.

To make matters worse when I arrived at my booth location Saturday morning, February 26th, my



The Staff of the Grandt Rods booth at the Indianapolis Sport Show, Indiana State Fairgrounds February 18 thru 27, 2011. Thank you for helping The Gad-a-bout. From left to right: Vince Weirick, Scott Haas, Brian Belvelever, Chris Laros, Jim Grandt, Jacqueline Grandt and Bill Ciesler. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

only neighbor on my left in booth 562, they moved him to the center of Tackle Town. In the process of their moving my stuff they had knocked my sign half-way down on the backdrop. I looked for a ladder in the Geoge Fern room, but couldn't find one. Thinking it no problem to get up to it, I stacked four bundles of papers and stepped up on them, while hanging on to the bar at the top, I lifted the end of the sign up, well the force of gravity won and I toppled backwards down onto the cement floor! Evidently my head hit my table on the way down, which flipped over spilling hundreds of papers and filled bags onto the cement floor. I lay there for a couple of seconds. Before I could get myself up though several people came running to my aide and offered to

help me get up. I want to publicly thank the guys and owners of Grandt Rods, (whose booth was located across the aisle from mine) who not only helped me up, Scott Haas fixed a leg on the table that was bent out of shape, they helped me pick up the papers and set everything up again. Scott also got up on a chair and straightened up my sign on the back drop. All of them kept tabs on me for a long while afterwards, making sure this ole' man of 69 was okay. It's great to have caring people around, who sincerely offer help when help is needed - thank you very much **Jim and Jacqueline Grandt, Scott Haas, Vince Weirick, Brian Belvelever, Chris Laros and Bill Ciesler**. See their photo above. Check out their website: www.grandtrod.com or call 847-577-0848. ■

On The Cutting Edge

"My Cutting Edge Opinion"

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THE UNITED STATES IS MISSING A PART

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The part left out in 1776 should read as follows: *Any elected official regardless of political party will be immediately dismissed, without recourse, if they desert their post and are unwilling to return for political reasons.* ■

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