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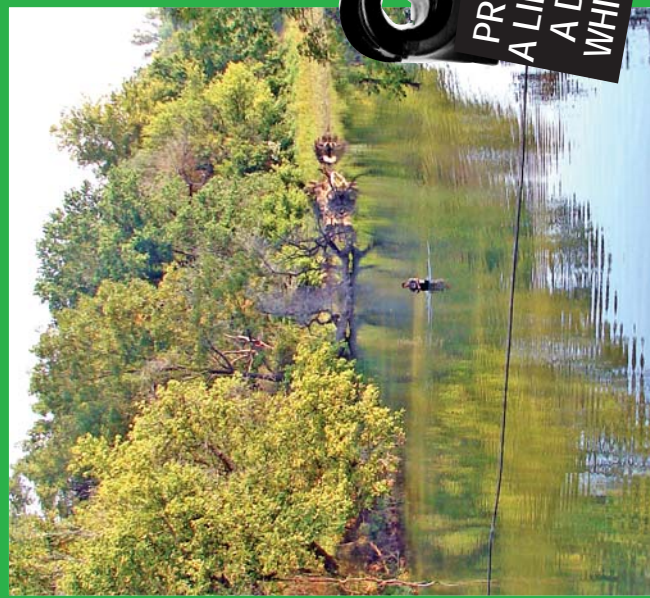


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FLY FISHERMAN WADING THE EAST
FORK OF THE WHITEWATER RIVER

JASON FROM MARION INDIANA TOOK THIS BLACK BEAR
ON A HUNTING TRIP TO ALBERTA, CANADA - SEE PAGE 25

ADVERTISER'S INDEX - SEE PAGE 2

PHOTO CREDITS PAGE 3

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ADVERTISER INDEX
YOU CAN PICK UP A FREE COPY
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ADVERTISER LOCATIONS LISTED

CANADA
ALBERTA
 Old Koots Outfitters Pg 25
INDIANA
AMBOY
 IN Deer & Elk Farmers' Assoc Pg 19
ANDERSON
 Crackshot Guns Pg 21
 Girt's Archery Pg 15
AUSTIN
 Burris Electric & Plumbing Pg 6
 S & L Electric Inc. Pg 21
BATESVILLE
 On Target Polaris Pg 2
BROOKVILLE
 52 Pik-up Convenience Store Pg 5
 Dairy Cottage Pg 8
 Noble Boys Furniture Pg 9
 Save-a-lot Pg 9
BROOKVILLE LAKE AREA
 Barton Bay Pg 8
 Chalet For Sale Franklin Co Pg 2
 Dave's Triangle LLC Pg 22
 Frame's Outdoor Pg 17
 Hunters Choice Deer Process Pg 8
 Hunting Land For Sale Pg 18
 Max & Mims Market Pg 12
 Parkside Marine & More Pg 3
 Quakertown Marina Pg 8
 Steve's Marine Pg 12
CAMBRIDGE CITY
 Amish Cheese Shop Pg 22
CONNERSVILLE
 Griffey Farms Pg 24
DEPUTY
 Marion's Greenhouse Pg 23
DERBY
 House on Ohio River For Sale Pg 20
DUBLIN
 Rihm's Meat Processing Pg 4
FARMLAND
 Concrete Creations Pg 22
GAS CITY
 Gas City Bait & Tackle Pg 22
GREENFIELD
 Buck Scrape Taxidermy Pg 28
 Highsmith Guns Pg 25

Jensen's Pawn & Guns Pg 23
GREENSBURG
 Country Mart/Premier Ag Pg 24
 Guns & Tackle, Inc. Pg 20
 Wagner's Barber Shop Pg 27
HAGERSTOWN
 David Federico, Attorney Pg 14
HARDY LAKE
 Pioneer Village Pg 6
INDIANAPOLIS
 Gem & Jewelry Show Mar 25-27 Pg 10
 Indiana State Police Pg 6
 Indianapolis Sport Show Pg 16
 www.IndianaOutfitters.com Pg 32
 Wannamaker Guns Pg 28
KNIGHTSTOWN
 Knightstown Meats & Catering Pg 23
 McDonald's Bait & Tackle Pg 13
KOKOMO
 Martino's Italian Villa Pg 10
LAKE MICHIGAN AREA
 Brother Nature Charters Pg 12
LAUREL
 Laurel Hotel & Restaurant Pg 11
LEXINGTON
 McCleery's Dog Carriers. Pg 25
LIBERTY
 Carl Sharp State Farm Ins Pg 20
 Country Mark Station Pg 11
 J's Restaurant Pg 11
 J.A. Bertch Hardware Pg 21
 Liberty Restaurant Pg 11
 P.R.S. Insurance Pg 28
 Pizza King Pg 7
 The Country Store Pg 3
LITTLE YORK
 Little York Store & Restaurant Pg 23
LOGANSPOUT
 Dale Hardy Supplies Pg 25
MADISON
 Anderson Honda Pg 1
 Burris Elect & Plumbing Pg 6
 Madison Outdoors Pg 21
MARION
 Riverside Sporting Gds Pg 26
MCCORDSVILLE
 Cap'n Hooks Bait & Tackle Pg 22
METAMORA
 Hearthstone Restaurant Pg 11
MILROY
 Milroy Shoes Pg 13
 Troyers Country Store & Bakery Pg 27

MOORELAND
 Mr. Ed's Taxidermy Pg 23
MUNCIE
 Buck Creek Outdoors HP Pg 26
NEW CASTLE
 J & J Farms Pg 23
NINEVEH
 Ed's Trading Post Pg 13
NOBLESVILLE
 Log Home Center Pg 7
 NURPU River & Mtn Supply Pg 5
NORTH VERNON
 Diekhoff Mower Sales Pg 21
 Scott's Gun & Tackle Pg 6
PARKER CITY
 Ludco Gun Shop Pg 19
PATOKA LAKE
 Poor Boys Country Store Pg 11
RICHMOND
 Army Navy Store Pg 22
 Best Stop Auto Care Pg 18
 Davis Transmissions Pg 21
 Gem Show Mar 4-6 Pg 10
 Mendenhall Hardware Pg 4
 Middleton Tool Sharpening Pg 3
 Riggle-Waltermann Mortuary Pg 4
 Tri County Awards Pg 18
RUSHVILLE
 Farthing Grocery Pg 4
 Fields' Outdoor Adventures Pg 31
 Flatrock Hunting Preserve Pg 26

Flatrock River Lodge Pg 14
SALEM
 Red Barn Bait Shop Pg 7
SALAMONIES LAKE AREA
 Bozarth Country Store Pg 13
 D&J's Corner Mart Pg 4
 Peacepipe Bait & Tackle Pg 23
SCOTTSBURG
 C & T Cycles Pg 18
 Rick & Jeff's Floor Coverings Pg 21
 Scotts Ace Hardware Pg 22
SELMA
 Dry Dock Marina Pg 20
SHELBYVILLE
 The Gun Den Pg 27
SEYMOUR
 Burris Elect & Plumbing Pg 6
STRAUGHN
 Girt's Archery Pg 13
SUMMIT LAKE AREA
 Summit Lake Bait & Tackle Pg 26
VALLONIA
 Tollivers Hunting & Fishing Supls Pg 27
VEVAY
 Dutch Discount Groceries Pg 24
OHIO
CINCINNATI, OHIO
 Boytim Charter Service Lake Erie Pg 12
 Stories by Golden Eagle Pg 14

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SPECIAL FEATURES

- Bob Felix Property Manager Brookville Lake/Whitewater State Park ComplexPage 8,9,28 & 29
- 38th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show Richmond, IN March 4-6, 2011Page 10
- Old Koots Hunt Camp Guiding & Outfitters in Alberta, Canada.Page 25
- Sugar Creek Hunting Preserve, Mitchell, IndianaPage 27

REGULAR FEATURED OUTDOOR WRITERS

- Roaming The Outdoors by Ray Dickerson (*Wildlife Shelter, DNR Deer Proposal, Indy Booth, McCune*) . . .Page 4
- So You Wanna Catch More Fish by Tag Nobbe (*The best place to fish in Indiana*)Page 5
- News from the Indiana State Police by Sgt. John D. Bowling (*Crash Reduction for 2011 & Driving Tips*) . . .Page 6
- IDNR News by PIO Gary Catron (*Are YOU kidding?*)Page 7
- Kampfire Kookin' with Ray McCune (*When Ya Got The Hungries or Deer Camp & Party Time*)Page 11
- Fishing Lake Michigan by Capt. Mike Schoonveld (*Twist*)Page 12
- Outdoor Tales by Phil Junker (*Sauger fishing cure for winter blahs*)Page 13
- Talking Leaves by Golden Eagle (*KOLA/FRIEND*)Page 14
- The Order of Red Men by Malcolm Greene (*Local Tribe One year old*)Page 14
- Indiana Outdoors by Joe Martino (*Beagles, kids and bunnies are a great mixture!*)Page 15
- Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show Feb 18-27Page 16 & 20
- Misfires and Snags by Dan Graves (*Losing a good buddy*)Page 18
- The Simple Life by Jack & Leslie Turner (*Safety Paramount When Shooting*)Page 19
- Outdoors with Rich Creason (*Indy Sport Show Back for #57*)Page 20
- Camping Here & Beyond by John and El McCory (*Camping with teens*)Page 21
- News from West Central Indiana by Don Bickel (*Prairie Wildflowers*)Page 22
- Ramblings from Da Region by Gene Clifford (*All about Ducks Unlimited*)Page 23
- Hoosier Horse Happenings by Rhonda Helming (*Taking Care of an Aged Horse*)Page 24
- Dog Tales by Alan "Grizz" Smith (*Hunt Urban Geese*)Page 26

GAD-A-BOUT DEPARTMENTS

- Advertiser Index,Page 2
- Gad's Corner (Readers and Other Fish & Game Photos, Send in your Photo or other)Page 29,30 & 31
- Rate Sheet, Contract FormPage 30

THE COVER PHOTOS

Top: Joe Martino's son, Nicholas (right), enjoyed a day of rabbit hunting with his father, their beagles, (Jack on left, Julie on right) and his friend Stevie Finley (pictured at left.) This was Stevie's first-ever hunting trip and now he is hooked. See more on page 15. (Photo by Joe Martino)

Bottom Left: A fly fisherman wades the East Fork of the Whitewater River near the Yankeetown Bridge. The East Fork is the River that is dammed at Brookville forming the Brookville Lake. The river is teeming with game fish, just waiting for you to put them in your fry-ing pan. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

Bottom Right: At left Jason Tedder from Marion, IN shaking hands with Old Koots Hunt Camp owner, Bob Simpson. Jason and his grandfather, Al Denny (not in photo), also from Marion both took nice black bears in May 2010 while at Old Koots Hunt Camp. Al owns D&D Fur Company in Marion, IN. See more on page 25 (Old Koots Hunt Camp Website Photo www.oldkoots.com)

Deer Whistle Inset - Page 1 (Cover)

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Roaming The Outdoors



by Ray Dickerson

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For website inquiries, please send your telephone number in the comments if you want a reply. For some reason some of the e-mail inquiries come to me corrupted and I can't reply to your e-mail. If you send your telephone number with inquiry, those that come in corrupted as soon as I find out the reply didn't reach you, I will call you and give you the information you want. Last week I had 4 inquiries wanting information, only one e-mail reply got through, the other 3 went unanswered because I had no way of communicating with the sender.

Modern technology doesn't work all the time!

WILDLIFE SHELTER (SEE BELOW)

Back in September of 2010 I cut most of my last remaining apple tree down because it was growing over the top of my house and I was tired of cutting it back each year to protect my tin roof on South Street. I used a hand tree saw and did pretty good until I was almost done and tried to break a dead limb off the side of the tree with my arms. I lost my balance on the ladder and fell off the fourth rung backwards onto the hard ground. I lay there for about a minute

checking to see if everything still worked, then got up and finished cutting.

My grandkids helped move the tree limbs to the street. I made sure I cut all the limbs small enough so the town would have an easier time loading it. However I learned that the pile of limbs was too big for the town to handle, so it is still there.

But, I found out as time went along and the snows came, the birds loved it. So I bought some corn and put it out for them, mostly on the ground. Most of the birds that visit the pile are sparrows and they evidently can't eat the corn in one piece. Today I bought some wild bird seed and instead of putting it on the ground I found a rather large overhead light shade and placed it near the pile upside down. When I arrived on South Street today though there was only one bird sitting on the wildlife shelter, a hawk. He took off when I pulled into the driveway. I love seeing hawks, but not in my wildlife shelter, it eats most of the wildlife that would be in or near the shelter. Before the snow left there was about 50 sparrows who lived in the shelter day and night, other visitors include two red headed woodpeckers, two pair of turtle doves, a couple of cardinals and an assorted number of squirrels.

I'm going to wait now until spring to get rid of the limbs. Life is strange, when I was young living here on South Street in Centerville I killed about every bird that was legal to shoot with my BB gun. Our pet cats would sit under the trees for the bird to fall down to them. I guess I'm getting soft I even feed the squirrels now instead of eating them!

DNR TO RECOMMEND NEW DEER

RULES TO NRC ON JAN 11, 2011

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has unveiled a new package of recommended changes to deer hunting rules that will be presented to the Natural Resources Commission at its Jan. 11 meeting at Fort Harrison State Park in Indianapolis.

The recommendations were developed after the NRC withdrew its preliminary approval of an earlier plan because overwhelming public comment opposed shortening some segments of the deer hunting seasons. DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife staff biologists believe the proposed multiple shorter seasons

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 29

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My wildlife shelter takes on a whole new meaning when it snows. Plus I've added a sheltered feeding area using an old political sign bent over to shield the feeding plate, See inset lower left. It works real good, at least the birds love it. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

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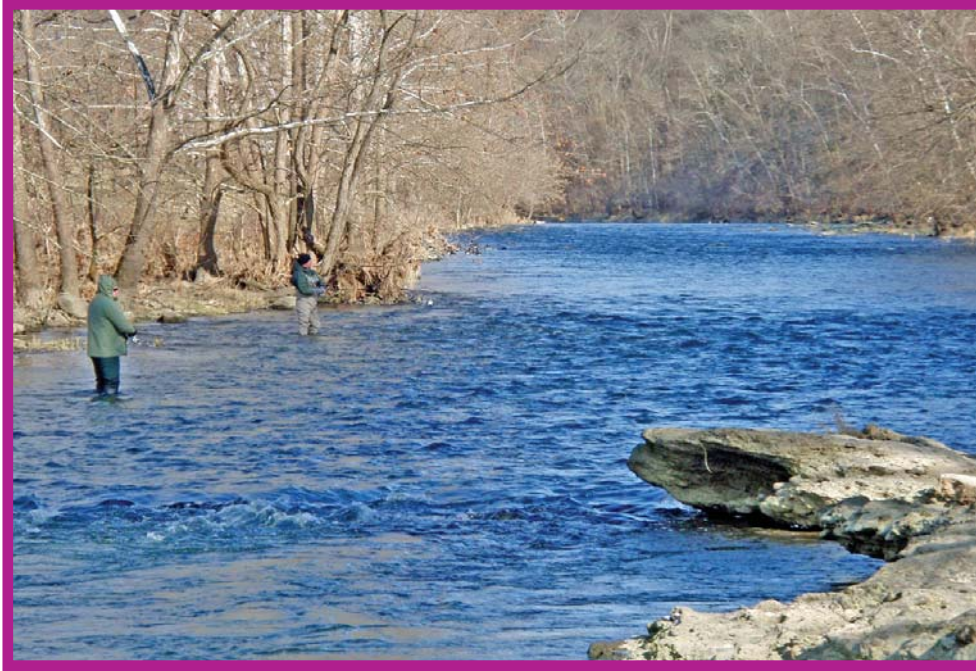
by **Tag Nobbe**
Professional Fishing Guide

The best place to fish in "Indiana"

Brookville Lake is located in the south east part of Indiana in Franklin county, about 1 hour and 15 minutes from Indianapolis or about 45 minutes from Cincinnati Ohio, just north of the town of Brookville. The best way to get here from Indianapolis is take I-70 east to US 27 south to SR 101 the Lake will be on your right, from Cincinnati take Interstate 74 to state road 1 to US 52 from there go through Brookville and then get on state road 101 the Lake will be on your left.

The lake was developed in the late 60's early 70's for flood control by damming up the east fork of the White Water river. Brookville lake is a cooperative management effort between the corps of engineers and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The lake itself is 17 miles long and 1 mile wide at its widest point. With the deepest part of the lake being 125 feet deep, its a unique lake for this part of the world.

The stocking program consists of walleye



Winter trout fishermen try their luck in Brookville Lake tailwater. (Photo by Tag Nobbe)

striped bass and musky. The lake is also full of smallmouth and largemouth bass along with white bass, crappie, blue gill, ring perch and catfish. The walleye are stocked in the spring as fry at the rate of two thousand walleye fry per acre per year. The striped bass are stocked every year as finger lings 5,200 annually and the musky are stocked on a surplus stocking program.

To catch fish on Brookville lake you have to know where the fish are within the lake at the time of the year you are there. For example a musky is known as the fish of 10 thousand casts. But if you are fishing in the early spring or fall in the right places they could be called the fish of 2 thousand casts. To really know fish you have to watch the cycle of their life throughout the seasons and watch the food their feeding on through out the cycle of their life and how they co-exist with each other throughout the whole year. Over the years I've kept diaries on daily fishing trying to figure it all out. But mother nature is constantly throwing you curve balls.

Typically Fishing starts to pick up in the very early spring when the water warms up enough to melt the surface ice. What your looking for is the warmest water in the lake. Try to look for shallow places that the sun is exposed to all day or areas of the lake that are feeder creeks like Templeton creek, Wolf creek or the East Fork river at the north end of the lake.

All fish winter out in the deepest part of the lake but as soon as the lake starts to warm up the cycle of life starts all over again. For some fish like the walleye the first thing they do when they come up out of the deep water of winter is look for a place to spawn. All the fish are going to spawn in the lake, only at different times in the spring and at different depths. But the walleye is probably the first. So to catch pre-spawn walleye you need to be fishing in March, just as soon as the ice comes off the lake. Two of the best locations are shallow rocky areas or places with current.

For the rest of the fish population May is the magic month for spawning. At this time of year all the fish in the lake will be spawning or trying to eat spawning fish eggs. Now it could be on muddy banks, rocky banks, around wood or rocky points But one thing is for sure, in May fish will be on the

banks. The trick is to find what banks. I suppose that is why its called fishing and not catching.

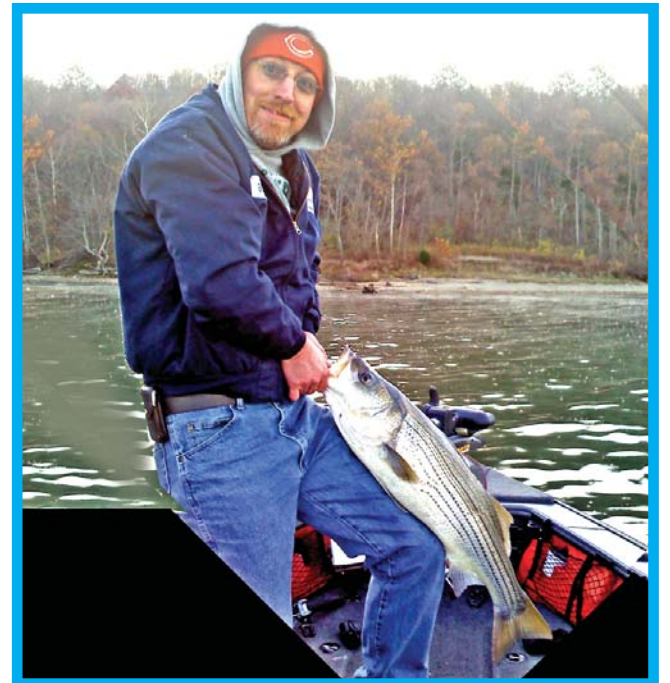
If your a trout fisherman the river that comes out from under the lake is full of rainbow and brown trout (the rainbow trout are stocked the end of April each year by the DNR). The rainbow trout are considered a meat fish, catch em take them home and eat them. The brown trout on the other hand is considered a trophy fish catch em take a quick picture and turn them loose (the brown

trout are stocked seperately). These fish can be caught using a fly rod or small spinning tackle just fishing from the shore. Just remember opening day to keep trout is the last Saturday of April at 6:00am. If trout fishing isn't your game then try canoeing. The river from the town of Brookville to Cedar Grove is full of small mouth bass, white bass and sauger.

Good Luck Tag Nobbe

If you need more info e-mail me at tag@tag-nobbe.com or go to the website www.brookville-lakeguide.service.com or call my cell phone **765-265-3238**. I guide fish for walleye, striped bass, and crappie starting mid April till 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 pm. To schedule trips call me at home **765-647-4329** or on my cell phone **765-265-3238**

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Bob Makar from Zionsville pulls in a nice Brookville Lake Striper Bass. (Photo by Tag Nobbe)

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News from the Indiana State Police



by Sgt. John D. Bowling

Crash Reduction for 2011

The start of a new year means the start for our new statewide crash reduction plan. I've already mentioned how we study statistics to see what roadways have the most crashes. We also know what time of day these crashes are occurring and for what reasons.

Using all this information we have picked certain roads to target in each county to work traffic enforcement during these peak high crash times. Urban fatal crashes, or crashes within incorporated city limits, were up over 45+ in 2010 as I write this.

So when you see us out working traffic, it's a good bet it's because there are a lot of crashes on that road. We will be publicizing high crash areas, in each district, so when you travel these roads, you can be aware of the dangers.

We also hope to address engineering problems on roadways that make them unsafe as well. Your Indiana State Police are using science to help uphold our mission of protecting life, property and public safety on our roadways.

Lieutenant Bob Burke, Commander of the Pendleton Post, describes the Indiana State Police's **2011 CRASH REDUCTION** effort. "We saw a rise in 2010 of fatal crashes in the urban areas across the State of Indiana following a record low year in 2009 in fatalities. It is the goal of Superintendent Paul Whitesell to identify our high crash locations, determine the reason for these crashes, and implement an aggressive enforcement program to address the crash causation factors that are killing our citizens on the Indiana roadways."

"Here in the Pendleton District, consisting of the eight counties of Henry, Wayne, Rush, Union, Fayette, Madison, Delaware, and Randolph counties, we are doing just this! Based on our 2010 crash statistics, we have identified seven specific roadways that we are going to increase our efforts within the Pendleton District in an attempt to make a significant impact on reducing the personal injury and fatalities that we have seen over the past several years."

"You can expect to see Troopers working these locations aggressively enforcing crash causation factors of speed too fast for road conditions, aggressive

driving, unsafe lane movement, following too closely, and traffic control/lights/sign violations to name a few of the top reasons for our crashes."

"We are also going to work with the agencies that have had an increase in their urban locations and jointly pursue violations that result in these types of crashes. Our goal is to Save Lives and make the roadways of Indiana safer for everyone to travel with an end result of fewer injuries and fatalities in 2011."

Winter Weather=More Crashes

From the first major snowfall of the season, throughout the winter season, we continue to see crash numbers soar due to driver actions on slick roadways. During the 3-4 inch snowfall on December 16th here in central Indiana troopers at the Pendleton Post worked numerous crashes and slide offs in just an eight hour period.

At one point a snow plow went through and pushed off the driving lane on I-70 at the Wayne-Henry County line. In just over a half hour I saw 4 semi-tractors and nine cars crash in a half mile stretch. When they first clear the snow off it will usually be ice underneath. It will remain ice (sometimes that can't be seen,) until the material they put down has time to work. Remember this if you find yourself following a snowplow.

One driver was too stubborn to let the tow truck pull him out of the ditch, so he made his two female passengers get out and push as he tried to "drive it out." After they were soaked and the car was buried, he called the tow truck back over for a tow. (Made me glad I wasn't a passenger in his car.) Below I've listed some standard tips for driving in inclement weather.

Drive according to road conditions:

Allow extra time to get to your destination. Clear all windows of ice and snow and remove snow from hood, roof and headlights and tail lights. Beware of bridges, underpasses, overpasses and intersections where ice tends to form first. Don't use cruise control on slick roads. Avoid abrupt stops and starts, slow down gradually and keep wheels turning to avoid losing traction. Use headlights even during daylight hours Increase the following distance between you and the vehicle in front of you.

Decrease your speed according to the road conditions Make sure you have a charged cell phone in your vehicle **AND NEVER TEXT WHILE DRIVING. MOVE OVER AND/OR SLOW DOWN FOR EMERGENCY VEHICLES.**

ROAD CONDITIONS: visit INDOT's website www.TrafficWise.IN.gov or dial **800-261-ROAD (7623).** **WE NEED TO LEAVE OUR PHONE LINES OPEN FOR EMERGENCIES!**

Lt. Bob Burke puts it this way, "We continually see crashes caused by speed too fast for the existing slick road conditions during the winter months. Remember, regardless what the posted speed limit is on the road you are traveling, you must use due regard with your speed and following distance based on the conditions of the road in order to travel safely."

"You can be cited for going too fast for existing

road conditions, particularly in situations where you lose control of your vehicle, go off the roadway and unsafe speed is determined to be the reason you went off the roadway. Please slow down, give yourself more room to drive, be patient, and plan your trip according to weather and traffic conditions."

MOVE OVER, SLOW DOWN-IT'S THE LAW FOR SNOWPLOWS TOO

The Indiana State Police would like to remind drivers that Indiana law requires motorists to approach cautiously when an emergency vehicle or highway utility/work vehicle is stopped or working along two or four lane roadways with emergency lights flashing.

Motorists **MUST** change lanes away from the **CONTINUED ON PAGE 28**



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Indiana Department of Natural Resource News



by PIO Gary Catron

Are YOU kidding?

Arguably, one of the better aspects of being a Conservation Officer is the interaction with kids in the outdoors. Whether it's listening to them relate a recent hunting experience or speaking with them about fishing at my local boys and girls club, kids' smiles and excitement can leave lasting impressions. Perhaps it's not so much the smiles and excitement that leave the impressions but that they represent a glowing ember within signifying they have been 'hooked' on the outdoors.

Whether it is fishing, hunting or another type of outdoor recreation, getting kids 'hooked' has been the aim of many organizations. Regardless of the intended activity there is one commonality, which is exposing the kids to the activity. You can either take kids to the activity or bring the activity to the kids.

It is not only private organizations providing the exposure. A number of states in recent years have designated special youth-only hunting seasons. Indiana offers several youth hunting weekends when youths 17 or younger can hunt when accompanied by an adult. Many DNR properties provide planned fishing activities throughout the summer months, especially during the designated free fishing weekend each June. The DNR offers the 'Hoosier Outdoor Experience' weekend at Ft. Harrison State Park. The 2010 event provided an



Brandon Williams demonstrates firearms handling on the trap range under the watchful eye of hunter education instructor Mike Brumfield at the 2010 Rush County Youth Experience. (Photo by ICO Gary Catron)

introduction to over 50 outdoor related activities. The 2011 Hoosier Outdoor Experience will be September 17-18. Mark your calendar!

This may have been a lengthy lead-in for me to say, you do not have to wait for the DNR or a private organization to schedule a nearby event. You can make one yourself! In early spring last year, my inspired friend Jeff Morgan began seeking those interested in creating a youth event. The purpose: to offer an array of activities and demonstrations giving kids an introduction to a variety of outdoor pursuits. Soon, outdoor mentors from around the area were networking and coordinating presentations designed to provide a basic understanding of different outdoor disciplines. The first 'Rush County Youth Outdoor Experience' was created.

During the morning of the last day of July at the Rush County Conservation Club the 'seed-planting' began. Through the day 60 or so kids were treated to demonstrations of hunting dogs, trap shooting, turkey calling, fly fishing, taxidermy and enjoyed hands-on experiences with trapping equipment, archery and pellet gun ranges, fishing equipment, a casting contest and several others that I am certain to have omitted. Several youths took a turn on the trap range under the guidance of experienced instructors. The Hoosier Tree Dog Alliance and the Rush County Coonhunters partnered to supply lunch for attending kids and parents. Throughout the day door prizes were given out and near the end of the day's activities several very generous prizes were presented.

The attractiveness of this event is that it was spawned largely by mentors in a community. The main goals being to engage the kids in many differ-

ent types of activities in hopes they find several they like, and to demystify some aspects they did not previously understand. There was not a focal point put on any singular activity. Hopefully, a youth will remember the fun they had doing a particular activity, become interested in it and begin participating in it as they mature.

For the outdoor mentors reading this, thank you and keep up the good work. For those who have not yet become one, what are you waiting for? A word of caution though, it'll only take a time or two of teaching a kid to track muddy animal footprints or paddle a canoe before their smiles will begin to 'hook' you.

Hunter Education Instructors Recognized

This past fall, the Indiana Hunter Education Association presented their 2010 hunter education instruc-

tors of the year awards. The awards recognize instructors in each of the 10 ICO operational districts the categories of: Conservation Officer, volunteer instructor, and teaching team.

The volunteer instructors recognized were: District 1-Joe Scott, Dist. 2-Gary Bontrager, Dist. 3-John Foster, Dist. 4-Bill Huff, Dist. 5-Matt O'Rourke, Dist. 6-William Craig, Dist. 7-Gary Ayers, Dist. 8-Blaine Allen, Dist. 9-Kevin Bumbalough, Dist. 10-Tim Ferguson.

Those teaching teams recognized were: Dist. 1-Marshall County teaching team, Dist. 2-Noble County teaching team, Dist. 3-Warren County teaching team, Dist. 4-Hamilton County teaching team, Dist. 5-Putnam County teaching team, Dist. 6-Bartholomew County teaching team, Dist. 7-Knox County teaching team, Dist. 8-Hardy Lake teaching team, Dist. 9-Switzerland County Sportsman Club teaching team, Dist. 10-Lake County Cabela's teaching team.

Conservation Officers recognized were: Dist. 1-Ashlee Jackson, Dist. 2-Kevin Pensinger, Dist. 3-Tom Skinner, Dist. 4-John Gano, Dist. 5-Max Winchell, Dist. 6-Jay Noble, Dist. 7-Paul Axton, Dist. 8-Ryan Jahn, Dist. 9-Steve Reinhold, Dist. 10-Aaron Mullet.

If you know a volunteer hunter education instructor, take the time to thank them for their tireless commitment to such an honorable cause.

Schedule checks

As a reminder, check the DNR website (www.in.gov/dnr) often for scheduled hunter, boater, trapper, bowhunter and snowmobile education courses.

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Robert "Bob" Felix is the property manager of the Brookville Lake/Whitewater State Park complex. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)



The people listed here are responsible for keeping the Brookville Lake / Whitewater State Park Complex running smoothly. From left to right, front row: Amanda Tikkanen (Assistant Mgr), Rhonda Alvey (Clerk), Tina Flaspohler (Clerk). Back Row: Vern Gillum (Assistant Mgr), Bob Felix (Property Manager), Tom Carr (Wildlife Specialist) and Dennis Weber (Recreation Specialist). Staff members not in photo: Maintenance Foremen Dan Doll, Steve Bennett, Homer Loudermilk & Mary Theilbar, Clerks Debbie Stang & May Jones. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

Bob Felix Property Manager "Big Responsibility" Brookville Lake / Whitewater State Park Complex

by Ray Dickerson

It helps to know what you want to do in life before you are old enough to do it. Such is the case with Robert "Bob" Felix. Bob planned ahead, after graduating from Washington, Indiana high school he entered Manchester College and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, graduating in 1970. Then he attended IU and earned his Masters degree in Parks and Recreation Administration, graduating 1972. While Bob was in college he did field work at Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area. He worked with George Seketa the Glendale Property Manager.

In January 1973 Bob was hired as Assistant Property Manager at McCormick's Creek State Park, then in September 1973 he was hired as a Wildlife Specialist at Brookville Lake. At that time Dave Turner was Property Manager at Brookville.

In 1973 when Bob began working at Brookville Lake there wasn't a lake there yet. On January 24, 1974 C.J. Walters, resident engineer for the Corps of Engineers closed the Brookville Dam gates, shutting off the flow of water from the East Fork of the Whitewater River holding it instead behind the dam which filled the valley more quickly than anticipated.

Prior to the lake filling Indiana State Fish and Wildlife Biologists had already stocked existing ponds and constructed ones, with game fish. As the water rose in the valley and covered the ponds

the stocked fish began swimming around in Brookville Lake. Native fish in the East Fork also began populating the new lake.

The Corps of Engineers built the lake, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is responsible for managing the fish, wildlife and recreations areas from the dam north to Yankeetown Bridge. The only area the Corps of Engineers retain responsibility for maintaining is the Dam and Tailwater area.

When they closed the dam, Dave Turner, Bob Felix and the rest of the DNR employees, at the time, had a huge responsibility placed on their shoulders.

Their first major project was building the

Mounds DNR office and State Recreation Area including the campground, showers/restrooms, recreation facilities, beach, beach facilities, bath house, camp store and playgrounds. That project started in 1975 and was completed in 1976.

The next big project was building the Quakertown State Recreation Area including the beach, bath house, campground, recreation facilities, showers/restrooms, shelter house and playgrounds. That project began in 1978 and was completed in 1979

Bob was doing Wildlife Specialist work from September 1973 to about 1980, but the last five years he spent a lot of time in Indianapolis. He was still at Brookville living on the property but

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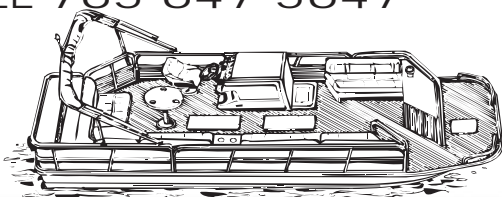
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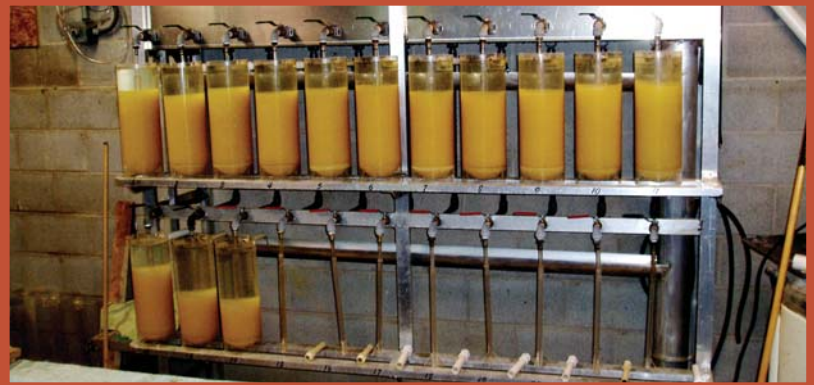
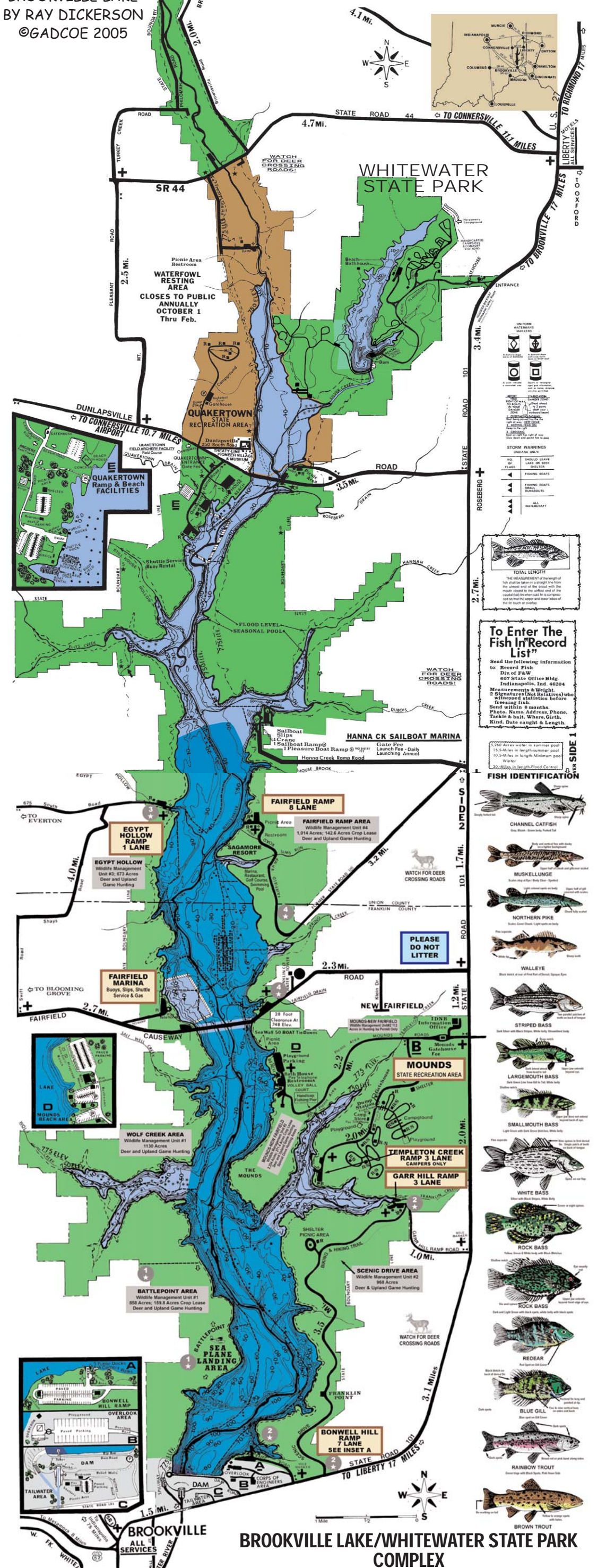
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1976 DRAWING OF
BROOKVILLE LAKE
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BROOKVILLE LAKE WHITewater STATE PARK COMPLEX



Top: Indiana Fish Biologist carefully strips eggs from an adult female walleye at Brookville Lake. (Photo by Tag Nobbe) Bottom: The walleye eggs are then stored for transport to the hatchery. (Photo by Tag Nobbe)

he was in charge of the crop lease program for state reservoirs in Indianapolis. He would go around to different properties to help out with them. At that time Bill Donceel was the Director of Reservoirs and they had just got permission to utilize crop lease monies for wildlife programs. Bill had Bob in Indianapolis to help set up the that program.

In 1980 Dave Turner left Brookville Lake for a position with the DNR in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was then that Bob left Indianapolis to return to the field and became the new property manager at Brookville Lake.

Beginning in 1978 and continuing to today, Indiana Fishery Biologists began a new program at Brookville netting walleye and striper bass to collect eggs from them to provide walleye and striper bass to other lakes in Indiana. The striper bass were cross bred with white bass creating the wiper bass program. Walleye are still netted at Brookville, but the netting of striper bass program was ended when it didn't prove worthwhile. Brookville Lake still has a good striper bass fishery that is kept that way with frequent stockings of pure bred stripers.

Bob Felix worked closely with the head of Indiana's Fish Hatchery, Biologist Steve Huffaker, on developing the walleye egg taking program at Brookville Lake. The first year they put nets out all over the lake to capture the adult walleye and it took 3 months to get the job done. It was a work in progress project they kept trying different methods of gathering the eggs quicker, safer and more productive until now the nets are only placed at the dam and enough eggs are harvested to take care of the entire state's walleye stocking program. Success through experience, the only way to do things. A couple of the improvements that assisted the egg taking was converting the former

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Top Left: Recently restored Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society, Inc (EIGGS) Club house located just east of Centerville on US 40. (EIGGS Photo) Top Right: 2010 Gem & Mineral Show at the Kuhlman Center in the Wayne County Fairgrounds, my wife, Sherry looking at displays. Bottom Right: Dave Straw, Treasurer of EIGGS met with me on Wednesday Dec. 29, 2010 at the clubhouse, he gave me a tour and brought me up to date on their projects. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

38th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil Show March 4-6, 2011

by Ray Dickerson

One of my favorite yearly events is the Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Society (EIGGS) annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil show held at the Kuhlman Center in the Wayne County Fairgrounds in Richmond, IN., this year it will be held March 4-6, 2011. See ad below for more details on this years show.

I want to tell you a little bit more about EIGGS this year, hereafter referred to as the Gem Club. The Gem Club has been putting on the rock and gem show since 1973, this is their 38 annual show. The purpose of the Gem Show is to promote knowledge and interest in the earth sciences and the Lapidary arts. The show is also a fund raiser for club expenses and provides money for a college scholarship awarded each year.

The Gem club was founded as a nonprofit group in April 1966. Of the some odd 80 members, 30 to 35 members are active. The Gem club is for anyone who is interested (not necessarily experienced) in earth sciences, collecting minerals, crystals and fossils; polishing stones, silversmithing and related activities.

The Gem club sponsors rock- and fossil-hunting outings, offers classes and does educational demonstrations at local schools.

Prior to acquiring the new clubhouse the club met at Hayes Regional Arboretum, the Richmond State Hospital and Earlham College.

Lapidary classes for members can be arranged for those who wish to use the equipment at the workshop in their clubhouse. They have equipment for sawing, shaping and polishing stones into finished

pieces ready for mounting as jewelry. The workshop is open most Tuesday evenings by 6:30 pm (weather permitting) for use by members who have completed the training.

Dues are \$15 per year for a family membership (1 household) or \$12 for a single membership (age 16 and over). Dues are paid at the start of membership and at the beginning of each year to continue membership in good standing.

Members are from the surrounding area including Liberty, Brookville, Connersville, Richmond, Winchester, Indianapolis, Greenfield, Knightstown in Indiana and Lewisburg, Hamilton, Middletown and Cincinnati, Ohio. Interested people in other communities are encouraged to contact the Gem Club.

Members are encouraged to become active by serving on committees, holding offices and participating in club activities. Each member receives the monthly newsletter, the club is affiliated with both the Midwest and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month, 6:30 pm at the clubhouse located at 5199 US 40 East, Centerville, IN. This is about 1/2 mile east of Centerville at the intersection of Rice Road, south west corner. Programs are sometimes scheduled before the business meeting and fellowship is enjoyed after the meetings. Guests are always welcome.

The new clubhouse was built around 1840, it was originally a two-story farmhouse built by James Rariden from Centerville. It was also used as an Inn stop, called the Esteb Inn.

A farmhouse to the east on the north side of US 40 was called Eliason's Tavern and Stagecoach stop, today it is called Gray Gables. Initially there was a tunnel between the two Inns, but it collapsed in the early 20's.

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 28



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When Ya Got The Hungries or Deer Camp & Party Time

While in the U. S. Navy, I was stationed in Hawaii aboard a destroyer for three full years. In that time I got to liking Hawaiian finger foods as compared to complete-take-a-lotta-time-to-prepare meals. I brought up the name just one time at deer camp. It was the name Hawaiian's have for snacks served to guests – Poo Poos. Sounds nasty when women reference it to meaning children's bathroom activities. Grown men at deer camp will take any opportunity to fit a gross or funny sounding name or word into a harmless conversation, soon to become funny and standard Deer Camp 'word fare'

On the TV show Beverly Hillbillies, the secretary Jane said to Granny, "How about fixing a nice fluffy soufflé?" Granny said, "You shoot it and I'll cook it." That line or those two words, fluffy soufflé became a mainstay in our hunting cabin words-we-use-around-here-but-not-at-home vocabulary along with some that are not so appropriate or for speaking in front of children. You'll often hear a hunter going grouse hunting and say he's looking for a fluffy soufflé. It's been referred to other things as well but I won't mention them here. Come up with your own version of meanings of the phrase.

For now we'll stick to Poo Poos or snacks we make at our annual Deer Camp sojourns to the cabin. These we prepare:

- 1 - When no one wants to or plans to cook at that time.
- 2 - When we've gotten though eating supper and just want something to tide us over until morning.
- 3 - When we get hungry while playing cards (here you have to make sure it's something that won't get the cards greasy or sticky.
- 4 - When company shows up and we've already finished off Toe-Main-Joe's Slum Gullion or fed the leftovers to the dogs.
- 5 - When we just want to.

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(A sandwich spread you'll not soon forget.)

- 1 (5 oz.) can of plain Vienna sausages
- 2 hard boiled eggs
- 2 large tablespoons of pickle relish
- 1/4 to 1/2 small onion (minced fine)
- Mayonnaise
- Salt & pepper
- Sugar

Using a fork, mash the Vienna sausages into a mush. Mash the hard-boiled eggs and add to the mashed sausages. Add the pickle relish and the minced onion. Blend all together and add enough mayonnaise to make the mixture spreadable. Add salt and pepper to taste. Add just enough sugar to balance out the salt. Put in a covered non-metal bowl and set aside for a while to let the flavors blend. Serve with toast points, crackers, or serve it up as a sandwich

spread. Add extra mayonnaise and serve it as a dip with chips. Better make plenty.

This also works with ground/mashed up hotdogs, pot- ted meat, Treet, Spam, sardines, and corned beef. Other ingredients may vary with kind and amount of meat used.

AN EASY TASTY EGG SANDWICH

(Simple way of preparing.)

- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp. water
- Salt & pepper to taste
- 1 slice of your favorite cheese (optional)
- Two slices of your favorite bread (toast them if you like)
- Pam or a little olive oil
- Mayonnaise or Horsy Sauce
- 1 saucepan whose bottom is the same size as the bread slices you are using –a Boy Scout personal mess kit pot is the right size for standard bread slices..

Heat saucepan with a little oil. Beat eggs together with the water. Pour eggs/water mixture into saucepan, turn heat down to just simmer, and put on lid. Cook until eggs are set – they may rise up like an actual fluffy soufflé but will deflate when taken out of the pan. Smear mayonnaise or Horsy Sauce on one side of each slice of bread. Put the cooked eggs on one slice of your bread, season to taste, and lay on the slice of cheese, and cover with other slice of bread. This sandwich is easier to eat if cut in half but always keep the other half in sight when eating; the sandwich is that good.

JOANNE'S WORLD FAMOUS TASTY TANGY CHEESE DIP

(This is tasty and not hot so add your own hot sauce.)

- 1 (10 oz.) can of RO*TEL diced tomatoes & green chilies
- 1 lb. Velveeta type cheese spread (cut into 1-inch cubes to melt faster)
- 1 (16 oz.) can of refried beans
- 1 medium onion (diced)
- 1 lb. deerburger (browned and drained)

Mix all ingredients together and put in a slow cooker or crock-pot, and turn on medium heat. When cheese is melted, stir and blend it all together. Serve up in individual bowls to prevent double dipping. This might serve four hunters; so better make two batches or one large batch if your crock-pot is large enough.

SMOTHERED PUPS

(This is a variation of a classic recipe.)

- 1 jar of grape jelly
- 1 equal amount of yellow prepared mustard
- 1 (16 oz.) package of miniature hotdogs or regular hotdogs cut into 1-inch pieces)
- Tooth picks

Heat and mix the jelly and mustard together. Put in the miniature hotdogs or hot dog pieces. Heat through and serve on paper plates with the toothpicks.

WESTERN SMOTHERED PUPS

(This is particularly good prepared outdoors.)

Use a bottle of your favorite BBQ sauce and liquid smoke to taste.

PUPS IN BLANKETS

(Better make lots of these.)

- 1 pkg. of your favorite hot dogs cut into bite size pieces
- Tube biscuits or crescent rolls

Open tube biscuits or crescent rolls and cut in pieces big enough to cover the hot dog pieces. Bake in a 350 degree oven on a cookie sheet until the 'blankets' are golden brown. Serve up with your favorite mustard, ketchup, BBQ sauce, salsa, or eat them plain. They are good.

DEEP FRIED PUPS

(Goes good at dinner parties of all kinds.)

- 1 pkg. hot dogs - cut in bite size pieces
- Your favorite pancake batter recipe
- Hot oil enough to deep fry in

Pierce each piece of hot dog with a tooth pick. Dip in your favorite pancake batter and deep fry in the hot oil. Do not let children do this recipe.

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Fishing Lake Michigan



by Capt. Mike Schoonveld

TWIST

You've been trolling the same lure for about 45 minutes and still haven't gotten a fish to bite it. Obviously, the lure isn't the bait of choice for that day and it might be time to make a change. When you pull up the downrigger you discover the lure has been swimming wrong and what it really has been doing for the last 45 minutes is twisting your line.

It's happens to everyone and when it does, changing the lure becomes the second problem at hand. The first is to deal with the twisted line.

Line twists can range from minor to birds-nest. More than once I've raised a downrigger to find the line so twisted the lure is separated from the downrigger weight by only a foot or so and held there by a ball of twisted monofilament the size of a volley ball. Other times I notice the lure, once pulled from the water wants to spin independently from the wind or simple inertia. It's actually uncoiling the twist it put in the line. More often, serious line twist is detected when a little slack in the line results in the monofilament braiding itself up into a coil.

Other than being an inconvenience, is line twist a problem? You choose to use 17 pound, 20 pound or whatever strength line because that's the poundage you think is best needed. A twisted line is not as strong as an untwisted line. The loss of strength is relative to the amount of twist.

A slight twist doesn't weaken line very much—the line is probably still stronger than the knot used to tie the lure to the line. Don't ignore it, however, a slight twist has a way of eventually becoming a more significant twist and a more significant twist begets a more significant weakening of the line. The important things are to keep the line from twisting in the first place, and when the inevitable happens and the line twists anyway, knowing how best to untwist the line.



Line twist can be a particularly troublesome problem for Great Lakes trollers. (Photo by Capt. Mike Schoonveld)

A good quality, ball bearing swivel is the best defense against line twist. Some lures, such as spoons, spinners, flashers and dodgers, are designed to spin as they track through the water. The use of a snap swivel is mandatory with these baits. Don't think you can skimp and get away with a less expensive barrel swivel (no ball bearing). Maybe you can, probably you can't and fighting the biggest fish of the day isn't the time to learn if your 50 cent gamble is paying off.

If you bring in a line with an obvious twist and you are using a quality ball bearing swivel, check to see the swivel wasn't kinked or otherwise incapacitated. If it was, problem solved. If not, chances are the swivel has either a manufacturing flaw or is just worn out. As with all things mechanical, wear and tear takes a toll eventually. When you get a bad one, toss it—they won't heal in the tackle box.

Crankbaits, stickbaits and plugs aren't supposed to spin as they track through the water. If they do, something is wrong with the lure and a snap swivel isn't going to be the answer. Actually, adding a snap swivel may be the reason the lure was spinning. These sort of baits are designed to be tied directly to the line, not attached with a snap swivel. Usually the problem is the hooks are tangled with each other or with the line. If that's not the case, perhaps the lure needs a tune-up.

Troll the lure on a short line close enough to see it wiggling along. If it needs tuning, you'll see the lure roll more to one side than the other. Once you see which way it rolls, the rule is to bend the line-tie-eye on the lure towards the lake bottom. If it rolls so the left side of the lure is down, bend the eye to the left. Usually a tiny adjustment is all that's needed. If you can't get the lure tuned, toss it. Like the bad snap swivel, an out of tune lure isn't going to heal in the tackle box and be ready to go next time.

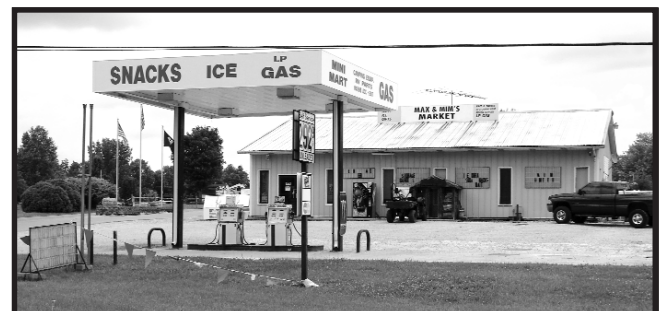
Most twisted lines can be fixed. If you come

up with the bird's nest scenario, just cut it off and dispose of the mess. Otherwise, remove the lure or snap swivel and let the line out behind the boat while the boat is moving. Make sure the line doesn't have any of the pig tail curls in it as it goes

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

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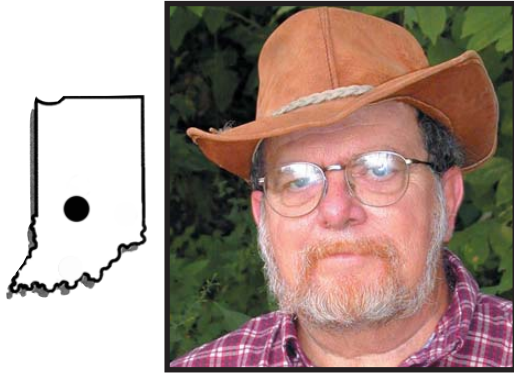
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Outdoors Tales



by Phil Junker

Sauger fishing cure for winter blahs

Once Christmas season is over, there are no more football bowl games and NFL playoffs, I'm easily bored and anxious to get outside.

It's time for winter to be over. Unfortunately, Mother Nature usually doesn't cooperate, and I have another six weeks or so to wait for significant improvement, but there still are things to do to help battle the winter blahs.

There are sports shows like the Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show where you actually can spend days looking at all of the outdoor gear and visiting travel booths to plan upcoming vacations and fishing trips. The show is large it utilizes the coliseum and a number of other buildings at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. The dates are Feb. 18-27. Then, there is sauger fishing.

Below the dams on the Ohio and other streams are prime territory for sauger, a tasty cousin of the walleye. Sauger action usually starts in late November and good fishing continues through the end of February from the Markland Dam all the way down the river to the J.T. Myers Dam at Uniontown. There also is good fishing along several other Hoosier streams.

Indiana's record sauger was caught back in 1983 by Mark Bigger, who landed a six-pound, one-ounce trophy in the Tippencanoe River in Carroll County.

(By comparison, the Hoosier record walleye is 14-pounds, four-ounces.)

Sauger are in the rives and streams all year, and you can catch them anytime you can find them, but the action heats up in winter months when they gather in pools below the big dams. Dressing for the cold weather is a must, but the fishing can be great.

Sauger often are mistaken for a walleye. You can tell the difference by looking at the dorsal (top) fin.

The sauger has spots in this fin and the walleye doesn't.

Probably the best way to fish for sauger is by boat. It gives you more options in finding the fish. Where you find one, you usually will find more. However, there are shore fishing opportunities.

There also are several



Prime time for sauger fishing are winter months when the tasty fish gather below dams in rivers and streams (Photo by Phil Junker)

productive methods of catching them from a boat. You can drift fish, or anchor and fish a single location.

By drifting, you cover more territory. When you catch a fish, go back and drift the same area again. If you continue to have hits in one particular area, then it makes sense to anchor, if feasible, and work that area well.

Below the Newburgh Dam is excellent sauger fishing, and many anglers have learned the trick of attaching their boats to the wall of the lock. There are small holes in the wall, and fishermen use long bungee cords to attach to the wall and their boat.

There are sandbars on the Kentucky side of the river, and later in the season, the fish are often found just off these bars. Usually the current is not swift there, and it is a good place to anchor, if the fish are cooperating along the bars.

There also is a limited amount of shoreline fishing near the dams. At Cannelton, people catch sauger from the Indiana shore right near the smaller lock. There also is an access road leading to the large sandy shore on the Kentucky side. Near the dam at Louisville, there is good shoreline fishing at the Falls of the Ohio.

Once you determine whether you will be fishing from a boat or from the shore, then there are decisions about how to fish and what bait to use. I have friends who are good sauger fishermen who use nothing but jigs. They won't touch a minnow or a nightcrawler. I have others who never touch a jig.

Falls of the Ohio State Park manager Steve Knowles says good lures for sauger are chartreuse or white 1/4 to 3/8-ounce jigs.

Sauger bite much like their cousin -- the walleye. Sometimes you feel a light "tap, tap", and sometimes you can sense the fish has taken the minnow or jig into its toothy mouth, but hasn't attempted to swallow the bait or swim away.

The limit is six and there is no size limit on sauger. And while you can catch six sauger, you

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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Talking Leaves



by Golden Eagle

KOLA/FRIEND

Friends come in many sizes and shapes and at different levels during a life time.

Among the Lakota your dearest friends are your relatives and your relatives by choice. Relationship among the people makes it so that everyone is either a relative or a friend. The terms Brother-Friend and Sister-Friend mean just what they say, a close friend, who is like a brother or sister to you.

One of the things that makes me very sad is that I often cannot remember people's names. In my life I have met many people as a Scout and Scout leader, as a soldier, and when I am telling stories or giving talks about the people. I often see faces that look familiar and so I'll smile at them. I find that smiling is a good thing because most people smile back, even if they are strangers. I particularly like to smile, make faces, or wave to little ones I see in restaurants and malls. My wife says I will get in trouble because people are overly cautious of the little ones these days. As they well should be. However, I can't help doing it. I also smile or wink at older kids,

especially if they are looking at me as though they know me. I can't even begin to count the number of young people I have met in schools and at gatherings since I started working with young people.

There are my past students or Indian Club members or scouts who come up to me after a performance and introduce me to their children. I once said that when that happened it was time for me to retire. Now I'm even meeting their grandchildren.

My recent illness has made me appreciate friends. Even casual friends or people, who know me by these articles. It has made me especially appreciate my brother-friends and sister-friends from Indiana, especially from Treaty Line.

One of the great things about having been an Artist-in-Residence, for the Ohio Arts Council, was that I arrived at a school a stranger and left two or four weeks later as a friend. Weeks later I received manila envelopes packed full of letters and pictures from my newest friends.

Friendship is an important part of the code of ethics developed by many nations of the native people. It is part of their communal life style where everything is shared. When that friendship grows into a relationship bordering on an extended family, then it is truly a gift to be cherished.

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At each of my naming ceremonies I conclude by telling the candidates that they are now part of my extended family. I show them a sign by which we can recognize each other when meeting at some future time. A handshake based on the traditional hand clasp of our people, showing that we are unarmed and come in friendship. And even a spoken phrase which expresses our brotherhood for each other.

My dream of coming together in a great gathering, with these special friends and with my young friends from the schools dims with passing time. As I grow older I have suddenly realized that they, too, have grown older. Anywhere from 20 to 55 years have past and some are in their 60's while others are in their 30's.

However, if the Spirit Land is a place of meeting loved ones and friends, perhaps I will meet them there.

In the meantime I wish all of you "Peace Through Brotherhood."

OLD CHIEF SAYS:

Laughing at your own mistakes can lengthen your life; laughing at someone else's can shorten it.

Outdoors Tales

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

legally can have only six sauger, walleye and saug-eye combined. And, below the dams, you also from time-to-time will hang a nice walleye.

Sauger fishing is best when the water level is near pool stage, and the water is running relatively clear. If you are planning an Ohio River trip, it is worth checking with the Corp of Engineers or a local bait shop to find out about river conditions.

###

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



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Please come as a guest. If you choose to join the cost is \$20.00 a year. Our national charitable project is Alzheimer's Research for the prevention, treatment, and cure of this disease. We have and will continue to give to other local charities.

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Indiana Outdoors



by Joe Martino



The author's son, Nicholas (right), enjoyed a day of rabbit hunting with his father, their beagles, (Jack on left, Julie on right) and his friend Stevie Finley (pictured at left.) This was Stevie's first-ever hunting trip and now he is hooked. (Photo by Joe Martino)

Beagles, kids and bunnies are a great mixture!

In my mind, there is hardly a better way to bring in the New Year than with a good old fashioned rabbit hunt. One in which family and friends are involved, and if I have my way, beagles as well of course! Besides, after a deer season usually filled with self-imposed stress and mostly sedentary vigils on stand, it probably does my body good to get out and participate in a more active method of hunting for awhile. I was fortunate enough to do just that around the New Year this year and was even able to have rabbit for dinner a time or two to boot!

When I was a kid, we didn't have beagles to beat the brush and run rabbits. Instead, we had to stomp through the heavy brush and briars and try to kick rabbits up ourselves. This always resulted in shots at the rabbits as they were high-tailing it as fast as they could away from us. But still, we managed to enjoy our fair share of rabbit dinners back then nonetheless.

Then, once I got my beagles, it took me a few years to learn how to hunt with dogs since I had never done so. For awhile I kept finding myself wanting to follow the dogs to try to get in on the action. Big Mistake! After several disappointing

hunts of trial and error, I finally learned to let the dogs circle the rabbits back to me.

When being pushed by predators, rabbits will generally always circle back to the spot from which they were flushed. Although they will often times run into a hole if they can find one, ending that hunt. The more closely or quickly the rabbit is being pushed, the larger the circle it will make before returning. This, patience is the key when learning to hunt rabbits with beagles.

Once I finally learned to let the dogs do their job, I remember how nice it felt not to have to weasel my way into every gnarly brush pile trying to flush a rabbit. Another huge plus to using dogs is that a lot of the time, the rabbit may be a good distance in front of the dog(s), loping along at a slow pace, sometimes even stopping now and then. This means a much higher percentage shot for you, as opposed to the quick-draw, shoot-from-the-hip type that are common when busting the brush.

I also recommend using electronic collars on your dogs. Granted, this may not be necessary n all beagles, but for most dogs, it is wise. Contrary to

is nothing but hogwash. Some of the best hunting dogs I have seen were also house dogs. Hunting breeds are bred for just that purpose – to hunt. Some dogs simply have more natural ability than others, and as is usually the case with anything, practice makes perfect. The more often you take your dog(s) out – whether hunting or simply letting them search for their quarry without the intent of harvesting any game – the better they will become.

There was a time in my life when rabbit hunting simply took a back seat to other, more important things in life. But now that Nicholas is old enough to head out and tromp through the fields and woods with me and the dogs, we have already been more this year than we have been in the last half-dozen years combined. Who am I kidding though, I mean, sure, Nicholas loves hunting, and spending time with dear old" Dad but I realize he probably wouldn't go rabbit hunting with me nearly as often if it weren't being able to get out with the dogs. You know what – I'm perfectly okay with that though because when it comes down to it, we are still spending time together and I wouldn't trade that for anything. ■

what some people believe, the proper use of an electronic collar can actually help keep your dog safe. Most hunting dogs have no idea what a roadway is, and will dart into the path of vehicles. Some beagles may also end up chasing a deer or coyote and quickly become lost if not broken from the chase immediately. These are just a couple of examples of where the responsible use of electronic collars is a viable tool.







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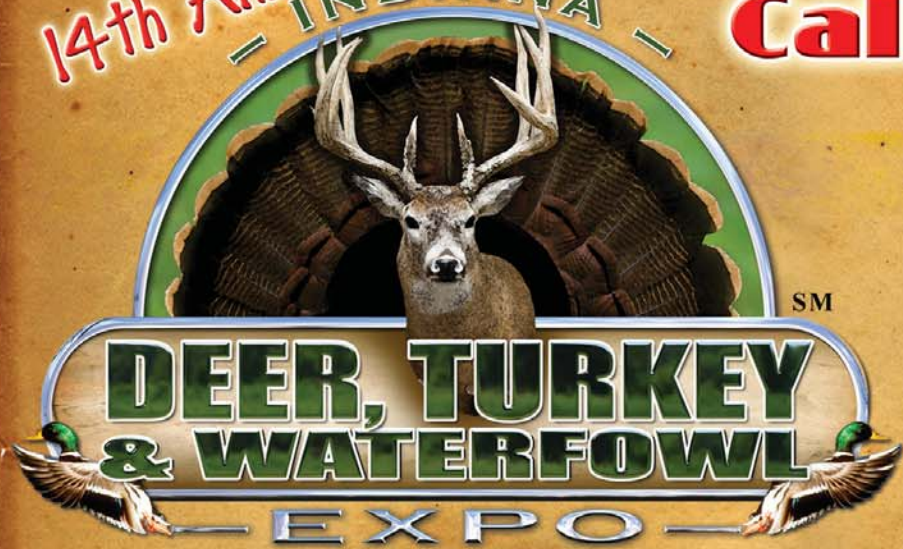
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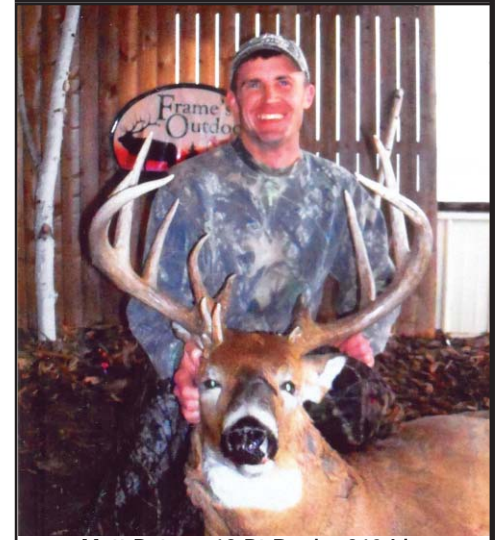
Joe Elleman, 16 Pt Buck - 202 Lbs



Brian Brown, 12 Pt Buck - 190 Lbs



Aaron Groen, 15 Pt Buck - 220 Lbs



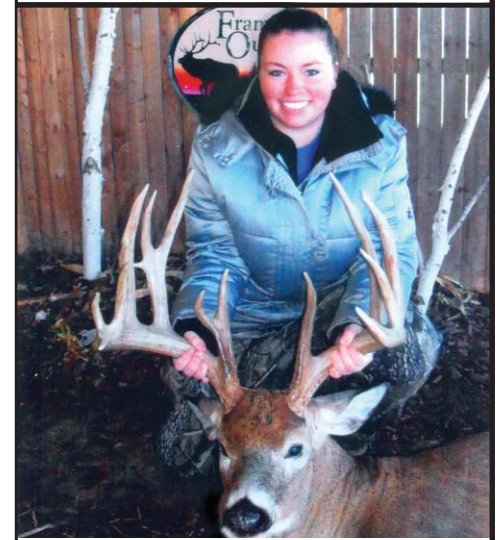
Matt Peters, 13 Pt Buck - 210 Lbs



Russell Bothast, 10 Pt Buck - 205 Lbs



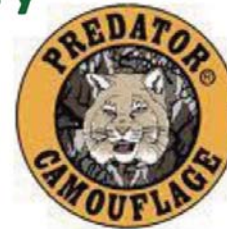
Ryan Jones, 15 Pt Buck - 200 Lbs



Darian Day, 15 Pt Buck - 165 Lbs



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Misfires & Snags



by Dan Graves

LOSING A GOOD BUDDY

Just recently, my grand daughter lost her four legged companion, a yappy little thing that, no matter how it was prepared, wouldn't have filled a sandwich. But, no matter its size, the little fuzz ball meant a lot to her and introduced her for the first time to the fact that nothing lasts forever. As she grieved I remembered a story of another incident where even older folks can feel the loss of a good companion. I'll try to relate it as close as possible in the proper vernacular.

"I knowed him from the time he was born. He wuz hangin' around all them relatives of his an' learnin' some of the things he didn't ought'a know, an' my wife just couldn't stand the thought of him not havin' a proper upbringing, so we just packed him up an' took him home to live with us. Now I know it's kinda harsh to say a little fella like that wuz ugly, but that boy took the prize. He wuz so ugly that the flies wouldn't hang around him if he wuz covered with honey. Big feet an' big ears an' every bone in his body stuck out far enough to hang your hat on.

From the time he got home until he developed a little independence he wuz always hangin' around under foot. If we had a nickel fer every time we turned around and fell over that boy we could'a built a good sized barn with the proceeds. It warn't long before my wife had him spoiled rotten. He must have been afraid of the dark, 'cause he took to spendin' his nights in our room an' when he would start missin' them no-good relatives of his he would begin to whimper an' my wife would be up an' givin' him company. When I would try the same trick she would tell me to roll over an' shet up an' stop eatin' cucumbers afore goin' to bed.

As time went on he began to grow an' build all this energy to the point where you couldn't keep up with him. One day I wuz workin' in the barn an' I turned around an' fell over him an' put another nickel in the can. Right then I decided that he wuz gonna have to learn somethin' other than trippin' people so I got out a ball an' started throwin' it. He was real good at fetchin' it an' bringin' it back an'

I begin to think he might be good at somethin' else. I got out the shotgun an' took him into one of the fields where they wuz a lot of quail. Right off he busted into a covey but they wuz too far out to shoot. So, I worked with him fer a long time tryin' to train him to have a little patience an' to let me know a little ahead of time where they wuz. He finally got a little of the idea an' settled down to where he would hold off until I was only a quarter mile away. When I finally bopped a bird he fetched it alright, but I had the devils own time tryin' to convince him that it didn't belong to him. After one season he got wiser an' I got more patient an' we worked pretty good together.

All this time I wuz tryin' to make somethin' of him my wife jest kept coddlin' him an' tellin' me to take it easy on him. I told her that he would have to get a whole lot better lookin' if he wuz to make somethin' of hisself an' that he needed all the help he could get. Well, he got to a point where he wuz growed up an' decided to retire from the bird fetchin' business. He took to layin' on the front porch waitin' fer the dinner bell to ring. I was gripin' about how he wasn't earnin' his keep any more when she reminded me that he wuz good at clearin' the cows out of the barn. I reminded her that I preferred to milk the cows in the barn an' not at various other places on the farm.

One day I noticed that he wuz gettin' better lookin' in his old age, kinda distinguished, like a banker wearin' a new suit. He wuz also movin' slower an' I hadn't tripped over him in a long time. Summer nights I do believe he began to appreciate the time he'd had an' the time he had left. The hootin' of an owl warn't no reason to get excited. It wuz just a sign of the end of another day. We knowed things might not be jest right when it took him ten seconds to get to the dinner table an' he couldn't hear you when you called. Now he wasn't the brightest fella in the world, but he must have knowed somethin' wuz goin' wrong because he stayed close to us as much as he could. He give up on tryin' to keep the cows out of the barn an' fer the first time I noticed the gray in his hair. I felt kinda sick when I remembered the old sayin' of "There's a time fer all things an' all things must pass".

One day he jest laid down an' didn't hear the dinner bell. I tried to cheer him up by tellin' him he would look a sight better if he would part his hair on the other side but he didn't take no notice. They say that all livin' creatures know when it's time to let go but it don't make it no easier fer the ones left behind. We stood by him an' remembered how he wuz a terrible ball player but he did start flushin' birds a little closer than a quarter mile. We kinda figgered he knew he'd had a good life an' would have thanked us fer bein' his friend if he could. Finally, the little spark flickered an' went out an' a tiny gentle soul wuz released to eternity. "Sure would like to trip over him jest one more time."



Corky lying next to me the way he used to, waiting patiently to go fishing. Corky was our best buddy. "Sure would like to trip over him jest one more time." (Photo by Judy Graves)

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Jack takes aim with a 20 gauge bold action Mossberg shotgun. (Photo by Jack and Leslie)



Leslie firing the 20 gauge bolt action shotgun (Photo by Jack and Leslie)

The Simple Life



by Jack & Leslie Turner

Safety Paramount When Shooting

We were fortunate that Jack's son, Jonathon, was able to come home for the holidays. Jonathon has been serving in the United States Marine Corps for the past two and one-half years and is currently stationed in California.

From an early age, hunting and shooting have always been a part of Jack and Jon's life. Jack has been hunting since the age of sixteen and currently is a Hunter Education Instructor for the Ohio Division of Wildlife. When Jon was just five years of age Jack began teaching him gun handling safety.

Leslie is no stranger to guns either. Her father is a retired police officer and her brother currently serves as a Deputy Sheriff in Indiana. Leslie has also done some target and skeet shooting as well.

On Friday, December 31, we went target shooting with Jonathon on some private property in Harrison, Ohio. The firearms that we used included a 20 gauge Mossberg shotgun, a .410 shotgun, a .22 rifle, and a .40 caliber handgun.

After arriving at our location, the first thing that was done after removing the firearms from the vehicle was to make sure that the guns were



Jonathon Turner shows his form when firing his .40 caliber handgun. (Photo by Jack and Leslie)

unloaded and the safeties were on. We were going to be walking across a plowed corn field where it was possible to trip and since we weren't hunting there was no need to have the firearms loaded.

After arriving at a suitable area for shooting, we selected a spot where we would have a high background. Bullets can travel a mile or more and we weren't going to risk anyone or any non-target getting shot.

For our targets we chose two old license plates, a small coffee can and a 4 x 3 foot piece of plywood with a spray-painted silhouette.

To ensure safety, only one person shot at a time. The other two people stood five feet or more

behind the shooter. Bullet casings are automatically ejected with each shot and shotgun shells are manually ejected after firing. We weren't going to chance anyone getting an eye injury. Secondly, before firing, we looked over our shoulder to make sure the other two parties were, in fact, still behind the shooter. A third safety measure that we did was to keep the safety on right up to the point that we were ready to fire. And upon completion of shooting each firearm, we double checked to make sure the gun was unloaded and kept the action open.

Because we were on private property, we placed all casings and empty shotgun shells into a pile so that we could take them with us and not leave any litter behind. In addition to the fact of not littering, empty shotgun shells can be used again by hunters who enjoy re-loading them.

Two things that weren't utilized that should be are hearing and eye protection. We generally use these items, but in our excitement to get to our location, we simply forgot to take them along. Long term exposure to the sound of guns firing can and does lead to hearing loss. After just a couple of years in the military, Jon already has a fifty-percent hearing deficit in one of his ears.

Upon arrival back at Jack's car, we made sure that the firearms were unloaded, the safeties were on and placed them into their cases. The ammo was put in the trunk of the vehicle, separate from the firearms. In some states, guns and ammo are required to be in different locations for travel.

Some may think that our "overkill" of safety measures were extreme. In actuality, there is no such thing as being too cautious when handling a firearm. Never underestimate the potential outcome of mishandling a firearm- IT CAN KILL!

The three of us spent approximately one hour shooting the various targets and enjoyed some quality time together on that fifty degree sunny afternoon. Outdoors activities such as trapping, hunting, fishing and shooting have a way of bringing friends and families together. Go out and create memories that will last a lifetime. ■

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Outdoors



With Rich Creason

Indy Sport Show Back for #57

The Ford 57th Annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport, & Travel Show returns to the Indiana State Fairgrounds in February. Once again, this 10 day event will bring a taste of what we can get outside and enjoy after winter is over. Six buildings with over 600 exhibitors from over 22 states and Canadian provinces will be waiting to entice you into the Great Outdoors.

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

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

But the name doesn't tell you everything. For instance, it doesn't mention the North American Quiet Sports Outdoor Expo located in the Champion's Pavilion. This feature showcases those non-motorized activities such as Fly Fishing, Mountain Biking, Canoeing & Kayaking, Scuba Diving and lots more. This will be the spot to watch the Lumberjack Feud. Chopping, sawing, speed climbing, and log rolling will be performed by world champions. Flymaster's of Indy will be hosting a casting competition and Orvis Fly Fishing Lessons. Kayak fishing will be presented by Indy Yaks. Diver's Supply will introduce you to the sport of Scuba Diving and all the information and equipment you need. And be sure to check out NURPU River & Mountain Supply, both here and in their ad in the Gad-A-Bout.

Next door in Tackle Town are the daily fishing seminars by experts in a variety of fishing areas. The aisles are packed with displays of thousands of fishing poles, reels, lures and more to look at and pur-

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

At the other end of the complex, in the Expo Hall, the 14th Annual Deer, Turkey & Waterfowl Expo will show its wares on the first three days (Feb. 18-20) of the Sports Show. Seminars and clinics featuring nationally renowned bowhunters, waterfowl experts, and gun dog demonstrations will entertain and educate show goers. The Gad-A-Bout's own Brandon Butler will be speaking on how to find hunting areas in Indiana. An indoor archery range, 3-D Bowhunter Challenge, the Indiana Waterfowl Calling Championship, deer rack scoring, and the Legends of Indiana Wall of Bucks are usually located in this building.

In this same Expo Hall, the last four days of the Show (Feb. 24-27) will highlight the 20th Annual Motorcycle Exposition. On display at center stage here will be some of the most beautiful motorcycles, both new and old, you have ever seen. On the runway will be the fashion show of a wide variety of motorcycle apparel worn by some beautiful models. Then visit the Tiny Tots Test Track as the youngsters try their skills with miniature motorcycles (with training wheels).

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

I left the best (my opinion) until last. The Pepsi Coliseum is home to most of the travel and vacation exhibitors at the show. State Travel Divisions, Tourism Associations, Convention & Visitors Bureaus, hunting and fishing outfitters and independent resorts and lodges across the U.S. and Canada are located in this building. My first of many trips to Canada was booked in 1970 in this building. (My brother ended up buying the camp we went to!)

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

If I haven't touched on anything of interest to you yet, you're probably reading the wrong magazine. If I did get you a little excited, mark your calendar for February 18-27, 2011. The Show is open on Friday the 18th from 3-9, both Saturdays

from 10-9, both Sundays 10-5, Monday the 21st is 1-9, Tuesday thru Thursday, 3-9, and Friday the 25th from 1-9. Bring your kids anytime, but the second Saturday is Kid's Day. The first 500 kids through the doors will receive a rod and reel courtesy of Honey Creek Tackle.

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

Come visit me at the Gad-A-Bout booth in Tackle Town. For twice our regular price (FREE) I will even autograph your magazine!

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

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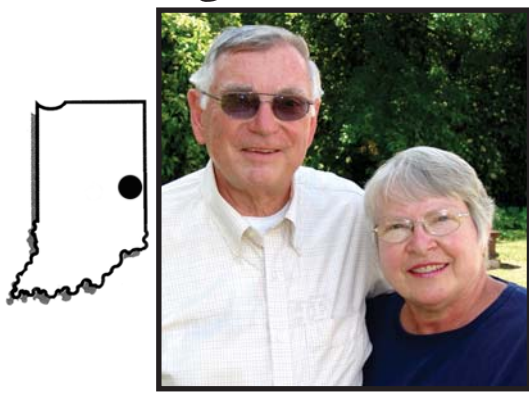


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Camping Here & Beyond



by John and El McCory

Camping With Teens

Many of you have probably camped with your own teenagers, and, at a certain time in their teen years have gotten the notion they don't want to camp anymore. We've seen parents work around this situation by inviting teen friends to go on the campout with them. This is positive in several ways. Some of these friends may never have camped before and are usually open to new and exciting experiences such as helping set up camp, building a fire, cooking over the fire, etc. Another positive is that the teen has someone to be with and not on his (her) parent's apron strings all weekend. In earlier years taking a pre-teen friend with you is sometimes a problem. They may never have been away from their parents for that length of time and try to find every way possible to be taken back home. We've noticed ways to quell this problem---take the parents with you too. Maybe another family will be introduced to the great world of camping.

Back in the late fifties and in the sixties, while teaching in the city I'd take kids in my Physical Geography classes on "wild cave" weekend campouts. Sometimes tents were used, but usually just ground cloths, sleeping bags and tarps. Some of the kids wanted to go each weekend but I had to limit them to two trips a year per person. Some had actually never been that far away from the city and had not experienced wet, muddy caves. And, we can add cold nights since we went caving in the late fall and during the winter so we didn't need to worry about quick melting snow or heavy rainfall to fill the cave passageways. We did sometimes awaken to snow accumulated on us while sleeping.

There are two experiences that stand out in years of caving (at last count 152 different caves). One is the time in December of 1959 when my group discovered a cave no one had ever entered. One of the students heard water bubbling behind a wall in an inlet in the hillside. We dug a hole toward the sound and wiggled through to see a stream and probably a mile and a half of passageways. We were in the cave about 3 or 4 hours and didn't see any evidence of any human explorers. There were a few animal (probably fox) footprints. We didn't see where they had come in. There were also a few blind fish in ponds. We're sorry to realize that many of the caves in southern Indiana have been closed to the public because of people not being responsible and not having followed cave etiquette. The other experience was the first time I took reporters and photographers from a local newspaper. After the full page write-up and pictures were published I had many phone calls and invitations to be on talk shows on local television. I accepted one and was on the show with little

Eddie Peabody, a popular banjo picker of the day. Because of these exposures I got to introduce caving to a lot of people including scout troops, people from local industry, and church groups. I found that by trying to facilitate all takers it became physically and mentally taxing. Even though I was a lot younger, I still was many times worn out.

In the mid-60's I got a call from a minister from South Bend asking my wife and I to help chaperone two van loads of teens from various schools on a Spring Break camping trip to Florida. I didn't know the preacher but found out he was the father-in-law of our high school librarian. We took him up on the trip and for the next two years we chaperoned teens we didn't know. We learned a lot on these trips. One situation was that male chaperone's counseled the boys and female chaperone's counseled the girls. Another one was to find how to keep the kids from getting "grettery", a new word we invented. The mood would change and usually the student with a problem had eaten too much cheese or other food that would bind them up. A good glass of prune juice would generally clear up the problem the affected one(s) had. They would ask us to find the nearest rest stops on the newly developed interstate highways.

Looks of success were welcomed by their friends waiting for them at the rest stop. Attitudes suddenly changed toward the positive side. These techniques were employed throughout the 60's, 70's, 80's, and 90's on field experiences. The kids knew to go or get the glass of prune juice.

On one of the trips with the preacher we were canoeing and camping in the Okefenokee Swamp. We had ground cloths down and cuddled into our sleeping bags. About 3 or 4 in the morning my wife came over to me and asked if it was sprinkling or were the birds active. I got the tarps and put one on each of the 15 or 16 students. I draped my tarp over a cement picnic table, crawled in under the table with my ground cloth, flashlight and sleeping bag. BIG ORANGE ANTS !!!1000's of them!!! About that time one of the famous Georgia/Florida down pours began. I jumped into the driver's seat of one of the vans, pulled in my sleeping bag, tarp, and ground cloth. I draped my legs over the steering wheel and spent a very uncomfortable three hours of no rest. The teens had second guessed me and got to the vans while I was talking nicely to the ants and bidding them a fond farewell.

On most of the cave trips we had to "teach" the continual use of the hard hats, bring more than one source of light, proper dress, and uses of rope. On one trip I had an all state football player the girls called "the hunk". He didn't follow my directions about how to move head first through a tunnel in the cave. He was about half way back in a group of eleven or twelve students, with me in the lead and a chemistry teacher bringing up the end of the line. Somehow he got his knees under his chin and started crying, "I love my mother, I love my father, and I'll start being nice to my sister, but get me out of this hole." We talked him through his problem and everything turned out alright. Recently at the Christmas Gingerbread House display in Ft. Wayne, we saw his mother and she said he talks about the experience and has been a good son ever since.

More about camping with teens next month. If you have anything about camping you want discussed, please contact us at 260-637-3524 or e-mail at: jmacnut@yahoo.com. See you next month. John and El McCory

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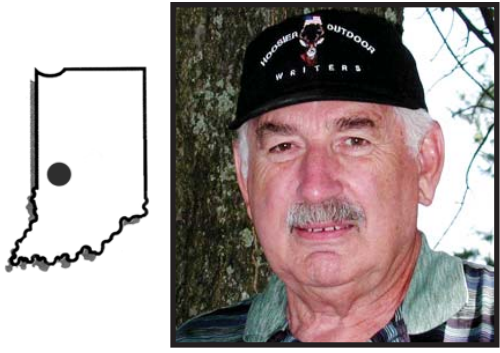


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by **Don Bickel, Forester**

Prairie Wildflowers

The old pioneer cemetery, those that had their beginning in the early days of settlement, the mid 1800's are repositories of two every special parts of our past. The remains of our pioneer ancestors are here. The graveside may have been chosen because of the view from a hilltop or it may have been an area where prairie wildflowers bloomed.

When the first grave was dug and the child or adult was laid to rest, the site became sacred in the minds of the family and neighborhood. If the family or group of people were moving through, traveling west, the graveside may have been unmarked except for a pile of stones. Unless a second and third burial were to take place, the site became marked only by the seasonal blooming of the prairie wildflowers.

These prairie wildflowers constitute the second burial in these old cemeteries. The burial is not of the plant's body, but of the seed which lies beneath the ground's surface in what some call a "seed bank". In many of these older cemeteries, these seeds of prairie grasses and flowers will still germinate when conditions are in their favor. Few of the pioneer cemeteries were established in a woodland setting. The roots of the trees would have made grave digging a near impossible chore, but the prairie's grassland offered a resting place much easier to open.

Today, we consider a cemetery at its best when the grass is clipped short and even and the stones stand as a stark reminder that a loved ancestor is buried there. However, when that ancestor was interred, after a short period of time, the prairie's flowers once again bloomed over the graveside. The burial site or cemetery (how many graves constitute a cemetery?) was probably maintained by an annual mowing with a scythe. In some cases, the area may have been grazed each year for a short time by cattle or sheep.

Those ancestors, whose passing is marked by gravestones, would recognize few or none of the present grasses and flowers which presently decorate our cemeteries. However, these plants of the grasslands did not grow neat and short and are not present because of mowing..

Other than the beauty of attractiveness of the

prairie wildflowers, is the possibility that in some of the species may lie the medicinal cure for a particular disease. There is much said about the plants of the rain forest and the medical advances they may provide given time for laboratory study. There is a possibility similar advances may be found in these prairie plants.

The North American Indian, present in many various tribes throughout the area which is now the United States, had only these plants of the prairie and woodland to treat diseases and injuries. Could it be that within these now often called "folk remedies", there are compounds which would cure diseases of today?

Within these pioneer cemeteries lie one of the few seed sources of these plants of the past. There are few other locations where the diversity of prairie plants is so great. Old railroad rights-of-way are another source, but as more efficient herbicides are used to curtail the growth of "weeds" and sprouting tree, the wildflowers take a fatal blow.

In order for the prairie plants to grow and bloom, mowing and the herbicides have no place within the pioneer cemetery. This fact would apply only to those cemeteries where no burials are being made and have not been made in the past 50 years or so. In order that the vegetation not build up dead material year after year, the cemetery is burned on an annual basis in February or March.

The fire does no damage to the stones and may inhibit the growth of lichens and moss on the headstone's surface. A fire in the late winter months, allows access to the headstones and it will be April or May before the prairie vegetation reaches a height that will hide the headstones from view.

Smith Cemetery in Vermillion County is an excellent example of a historical cemetery maintained by fire. A visit in late March will see the prairie landscape come to life. Through the process of blooming, a monthly visit will find prairie flowers and grasses changing throughout the season from March to October.

Smith Cemetery is maintained by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Nature Preserves. It is located on State Road 63, about 5 miles south of its junction with I-74 on the west side of Indiana. The cemetery is about 1 acre in size and lies immediately west of the highway's right-of-way. Watch for the taller gravestones and park on the grass right-of-way.

You may walk through the cemetery, but disturb nothing. A guidebook to the tall grass prairie flowers will be a valuable asset to carry. There may be answers to some of medical science's question or there might not. But having them may prevent a doctor from saying, "We know a plant that holds the cure to your ailment, but it is now extinct."

This writer welcomes comments from readers. E-mail edgeoftheprairie@sbcglobal.net.

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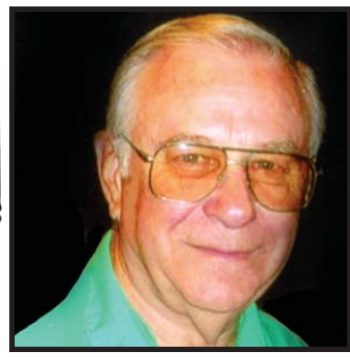
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Ramblings from Da Region


 by **Gene Clifford**
All about Ducks Unlimited

Ducks Unlimited (DU) is the world's largest non-profit organization dedicated to conserving North America's continually disappearing waterfowl habitats. Ducks Unlimited got its start in 1937 during the Dust Bowl when North America's drought plagued waterfowl populations had plunged to unprecedented lows. Determined not to sit by idly as the continent's waterfowl dwindled beyond recovery, a small group of sportsmen joined together to form an organization that became known as Ducks Unlimited. Its mission: Habitat Conservation. Ducks Unlimited has conserved more than 12 million acres thanks to contributions from more than a million supporters across the continent.

Waterfowl are not the only beneficiaries of DU's habitat work. Wetlands improve the overall health of our environment by recharging and purifying groundwater, moderating floods and reducing soil erosion.

Wetlands were once considered mosquito-infested swamps with little value to humans. Today, we understand that wetlands are vital to the health of our planet. Home to hundreds of wildlife species, wetlands are our most productive ecosystems. They serve as natural filters, purifying our water sources. Wetlands also help control flooding and provide recreation areas for millions of Americans. Policies have changed, whereas we now want to preserve our wetlands.

Today, we're losing wetlands at an ever alarming rate. The United States has lost more than half of its original wetlands and continues to lose more than 100,000 wetland acres each and every year. EVERY 10 MINUTES, AN ACRE OF WETLANDS IS LOST. We must reverse this trend.

Ducks Unlimited members come from all walks of life, but they are united by their passions. Passion for our outdoor sporting traditions and passion for ensuring that those traditions are here for their children and grandchildren to enjoy. Since DU's inception back in 1937, when I was still in diapers, DU has been the best way for waterfowlers to give back to the resources that bring them so much enjoyment. And, with more than 12 million acres conserved in all of



Waterfowl in movement. (Gene Clifford Photo)

North America, DU is providing the habitat that waterfowl need to thrive.

Ducks Unlimited is a grassroots, Volunteer-based organization. Its members are conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts who live primarily throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, DU volunteers hosted more than 4,600 fund raising banquets, such as member and sponsor banquets, trapshooting and fishing tournaments and golf outings. Dollars raised at these events represent some of DU's most important sources of revenue. Since event dollars are typically unrestricted, DU is able to spend these funds in their highest priority areas and use them to leverage additional funds from other sources.

Hunters want more ducks, and so does DU. To make this happen, DU is refocusing their sights on existing public ownership. Their goal is to improve what they've got already, and to create what they don't.

Back in June of 2006 Ducks Unlimited announced History's Largest Wetlands Conservation Campaign. In a race against time to save North America's wetlands, Ducks Unlimited and its foundation, the Wetlands America Trust, announced the launch of the largest wetlands conservation campaign in history. The Wetlands for Tomorrow campaign plans to raise 1.7 Billion over the next 5 years, to conserve North America's wetlands for future generations. This campaign will be drawing to a close in 2011.

Wetlands for Tomorrow has raised funds for 9 initiatives that will help DU restore and manage millions of acres of wetlands. Because these initiatives are specific to certain areas of North America, donors will be able to direct their gifts towards regions and projects in which they have a special interest or about which they are particularly concerned.

August A. Busch 111, chairman of Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc., stressed the timeliness of DU's response to the conservation crisis at hand. In a video message to DU's national convention delegates, Busch said "That what DU has done in the last 30 years is a miracle, but we must never forget that we are in a race against time, and the world we share is only given to us in trust for our grandchildren".



What's good for landowners is good for ducks too. Landowners can benefit their operations, improve water quality and control flooding all while conserving wetlands for waterfowl and other wildlife through the Wetlands Reserve Program(WRP). Ducks Unlimited is working in partnership with the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service(NRCS) and all continental states.

WRP is a voluntary program that helps landowners protect, restore and enhance wetlands on their property. The NRCS administers the program and provides incentives and technical assistance for landowners with the goal of restoring wetland functions to the landscape and providing quality wildlife habitat. In the end, landowners benefit by being compensated for retiring marginal land from agriculture and landscape benefits by the conservation of soil, water and wetland resources. WRP is an exceptional program for many, and the amount of rainfall we have had in recent years, it is helping land owners receive income from land that has less production value.

Facts and figures about Ducks Unlimited as of January 1, 2010
 Acreage conserved in Canada 6,159,821

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Hoosier Horse Happenings



by Rhonda Helming

Taking Care of an Aged Horse

I found out that one year of a horse's life is equal to three years of a humans life. I think this fact is just amazing! As with anything that ages, the way we care for an older horse has to change as well. I have never kept a horse for as long as I have kept my old mare, therefore, I had no idea the care that is involved in keeping my old girl going. She will be the first horse that I have had for two decades, and she will stay here, with me, always.

As you all know, I have decided to semi-retire my old mare, Sucha, who is now 23 years old (69 years old in human years). I have been told repeatedly to stay off of her and concentrate on my young horse, Bia. So, to keep me from being tempted, I have had her shoes pulled and put her out to pasture with my daughters retired horse, Ugly.

I started to do some investigating to find out what some thoughts are and ideas other people had for taking care of their senior horses.

With all of the health care and good feeding programs available to older horses today, they are living a lot longer. I can remember when I was younger, we would never have thought of a horse living past the age of 16, let alone still be riding one that is 23! This day and age, it's hard to tell how old a horse is just by looking at them.

With the proper care and feed you can keep your aged horse productive a lot longer because of all the vitamins, natural supplements, and healthy food that horses can eat.

Here are some tips that I found:

Proper Dental care is important. An older horse needs to see an equine dentist at least twice a year for a check up. If their teeth are bothering them, they won't eat, and if they won't eat, they lose weight. Because of their age, older horses are more prone to lose teeth. If this begins to happen, you might want to consider changing their feed to something that can be made into a mash, or that you can add water too.

Their digestive system changes as well. I have started my old horse on some senior feed, and she is holding her weight well. There are many different types

of senior feed, so feed the one that your horse likes. I know we had to try three different feeds before my old gal found the one she liked. If you have no idea what to feed, talk with your local vet, or sometimes your local feed mill might have ideas as well.

Your older horse might also need supplements added to their feed. Arthritis might set in, so it is always good to use a joint supplement. I feed Sucha MSM. This keeps her joints fluid and in working order. It also slows down the arthritis if it has already set in. I also am a believer in using liniments as well. They relieve the aches and pains that an old horse might have, and makes that horse feel really good too! Just watch your senior horse after you apply it! You will be amazed at the results!

You also need to make sure that your older horse drinks plenty of water. The horse needs fresh water every single day, and the water buckets need to be emptied once a day. If you are able to, you need to check the water at least three times a day. In the winter time, it would be a good investment to use heated water buckets. These buckets HAVE to be emptied every day, if not, all of the feed or hay that your horse drops into the bucket will cook. It really is not a pleasant smell.

Even though I say I have retired Sucha, I still get her out and exercise her. I might ride her, or I might just put her in the round pen. Sucha enjoys being worked and messed with, so why should I take that away from her? I keep her with my daughters horse, Ugly, because the younger horses can be aggressive. We keep these two in stalls by one another, and put them out in the pasture together. Both of them have a turn out pen attached to their stalls so they can come and go as they please.

In the winter months, I keep a blanket on Sucha when she starts to shiver. I have found that she just doesn't handle the cold weather as good as she used to. I also do not keep her outside as long as my younger horses.

I may not ride Sucha as much as I used too, but I still have her trimmed regularly from our farrier. I like to keep her hooves in good shape because you never know when I may need to put a set of shoes



Top: Sucha looking great at the age of 23! (Photo by Rhonda Helming)

back on her. Sucha is also on a regular de-worming program just like the young horses in my barn.

You need to watch for weight loss, especially this time of year. I like to rub my hands over Sucha's body, because you just can't tell by looking with the winter coats if she has harmed herself or is dropping weight. This is also a good practice on any of your horses during the winter months.

Just like us, horses love to be loved on and attention given to them. Sucha has given me 19 years, and it is only fair to return the favor in her senior years. She will always have a forever home with me. After all, she deserves it! I could not imagine getting rid of her just because she is past her prime. She deserves a great retirement and I intend to make sure she gets it.

Nothing is more sacred as the bond between a horse and a rider. No other creature can ever become so emotionally close to a human as a horse. When a horse dies, the memory lives on, because an enormous part of his owner's heart, soul, and the very existence dies also. — Stephanie M. Thorn

Until next month, stay safe and give your equine friend a big hug. If you have any questions you can contact me at thehelming@psci.net.

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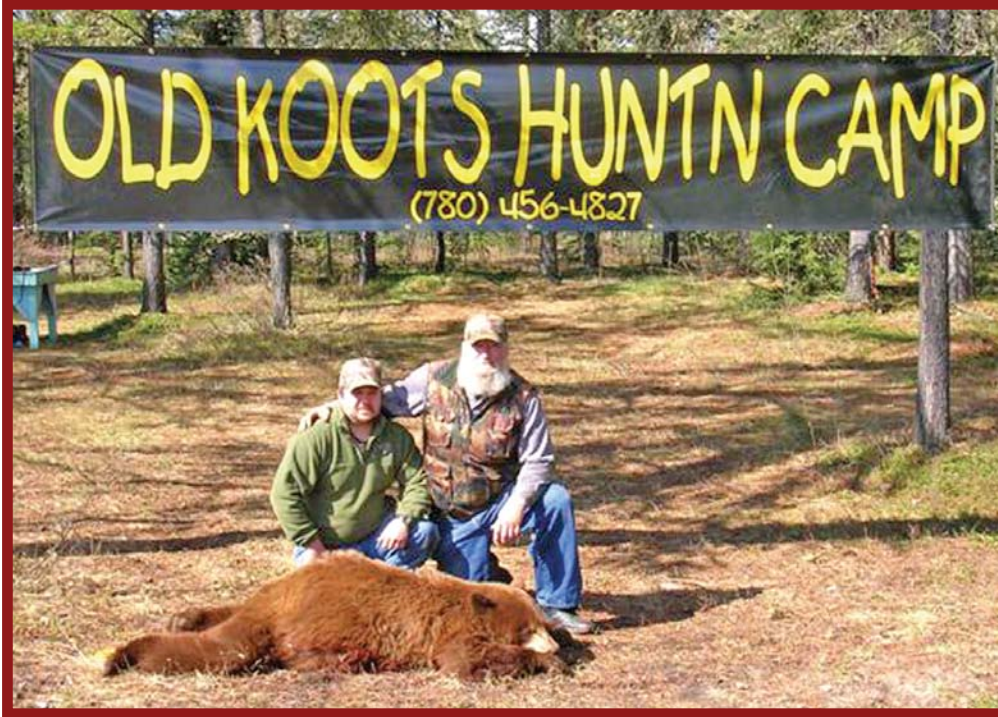
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LEFT PHOTO: At left hunter Jerry Grubb from Indiana took this cinnamon bear while at Old Koots Hunt Camp in Alberta, Canada. On his right is Bob Simpson, owner of Old Koots Hunt Camp Guiding & Outfitters. (Old Koots Hunt Camp Website Photo www.oldkoots.com) RIGHT PHOTO: Guide for Old Koots Hunt Camp Travis Hjelmaleland with a black bear taken in May 2010 (Old Koots Hunt Camp Website Photo www.oldkoots.com)

Old Koots Hunt Camp Guiding & Outfitters

by Jack Graham

Past President Alberta Fish & Game Association

For over 50 years I have been a hunter and guide in Alberta, Canada. Every spring it was bear fever - stalking and hunting bears. A few years ago Bob Simpson, owner of Old Koots Hunt Camp asked me to help in his bear camp. I found the camp to be an uplifting experience compared to past experiences. Bob was looking after his clients above normal, clean private sleeping quarters in a heated bunk trailer, hot showers, running water and electricity 24 hours a day. Full kitchen with a chef and helper on staff, which made for excellent meals and home baked deserts.

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At left Jason Tedder from Marion, IN shaking hands with Old Koots Hunt Camp owner, Bob Simpson. Jason and his grandfather, Al Denny (not in photo), also from Marion both took nice black bears in May 2010 while at Old Koots Hunt Camp. Al owns D&D Fur Company in Marion, IN. (Old Koots Hunt Camp Website Photo www.oldkoots.com)

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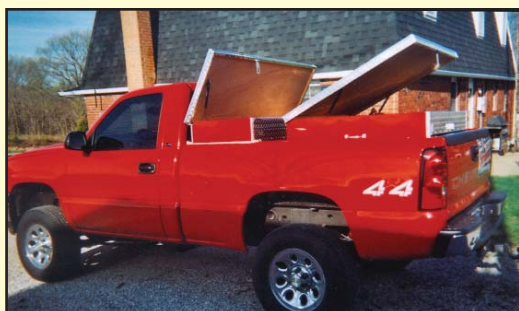
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Dog Tales



by Alan "Grizz" Smith

Hunt Urban Geese

I would have to say that it's been an unusual hunting season so far. Mostly due to weather patterns, we were hammered with snow early in December and the ground stayed white until the last few days of the month when a four day warm up saw temperatures in the high 50's. The first week of January has been very mild also. Most of the ponds and small lakes froze up during the first week of December when the temperatures dropped into the single digits. This has limited most of our waterfowl hunting to field and river hunting. I do have one little honey hole pond that is spring fed and rarely freezes up, I've taken a lot of waterfowl out of this spot until this year. I do know the problem with this spot though. The problem is I cannot keep my great nephew out of it. Every time there is a bird in it he wants to jump shoot it. I remember having that much enthusiasm but it was a few years back!

During many of our field hunts it seemed like the geese were in such large groups that it was all but impossible to get them to work the decoys. Many times we had between 5 and 10 dozen goose decoys out plus another 5 dozen duck decoys and the geese would come over in groups of 100 or more and wouldn't even give us a second look. We tried only one guy calling, we tried several guys calling and we even tried no calling, we tried flagging and no flagging but nothing seemed to work on these large groups of geese. I knew where they were feeding but had no luck in gaining permission to hunt there. There had been about 5 or 6 hundred geese feeding in that field for over a week. So without permission on the X that left us trying to run traffic between the roost and the diner. While we couldn't pull in the bigger groups we did manage to scratch out some geese from the smaller flocks that flew over. When you get large groups like that and they know they have a safe spot to go and eat it is nearly impossible to get them to commit in any other spot. The only good chance you have is for somebody to hunt the spot they are feeding in or for them to eat it out and have to start looking for a new field to feed in. After about 10 days the latter happened and the large flocks started to break up into groups that were more manageable.

With three weeks left of the regular goose season I have a feeling there will be plenty more opportunities to set up and pound some more big Canada geese. I also hope to get a few opportunities to hunt some during the late (February) season. This late season is set up to target geese that



Pictured (L to R) Front row Chad Dunkle with Gunner, Patrick Shaffmaster with Rocco and John Lang. Back row Robbie Taylor and Alan "GRIZZ" Smith. (Alan Smith Photo)

are living in our cities and have to venture out into more rural areas in the late winter to find food. The following counties are open for the February season (Feb. 1st thru 15th); Steuben, Lagrange, Elkhart, St. Joseph, La Porte, Starke, Marshall, Kosciusko, Noble, De Kalb, Allen, Whitley, Huntington, Wells, Adams, Boone, Hamilton, Madison, Hendricks, Marion, Hancock, Morgan, Johnson, Shelby, Vermillion, Parke, Vigo, Clay, Sullivan, Greene. One change to the February season this year is that only geese taken in Clay, Greene, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo counties need to be checked. Geese shot in the other open counties do not need to be checked this year. For a complete list of rules and regulations concerning the late Canada goose season check out the DNR website at www.in.gov/dnr/ also to obtain the free permit necessary to hunt in the late season go to www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/ or call 317-232-4200. With the bag limit back up to 5 geese during the late season what more reason do you need to get out there and take advantage of the February season? Get out there this month and hunt urban geese!



John Lang and Todd Jessup with three geese taken New Years day 2011. (Alan Smith Photo)

Fishing Lake Michigan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

into the water. Keep letting line off the reel until you determine the twist is gone by pulling a little slack. If the slack line doesn't coil up, it's untwisted.

Often a serious twist will tighten so thoroughly, the line kinks. Each of these kinks is a weak spot. When you retrieve the line, reel it through your fingers pinched just ahead of the reel. This puts some tension on the line and allows you to feel for nicks or kinks. If you feel any kinks, the line is ruined—or at least significantly weakened. Discard it. Or hook up with a 20 pound chinook and let it test how much damage the twist caused.

THE END

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Top Left: Sugar Creek Hunting Preserve Lodge and lake. (Photo by Ray Dickerson) Top Right: Skeet and Trap Ranges sitting just west of the Lodge overlooking 750 acres of rolling hills, great cover and multiple small groves of trees. (Photo by Ray Dickerson) Bottom Left: European Style pheasant hunt shooting station, here participants wait for the next birds. (Photo by Brian Waldbieser) Bottom Right: Successful shooters of a European Style pheasant hunt at Sugar Creek Hunting Preserve (Photo by Dale Waldbieser)

Sugar Creek Hunting Preserve

by Ray Dickerson & Brian Waldbieser

Nestled in the wilds of South Central Indiana between Mitchell, Indiana, Spring Mill State Park and the East Fork of the White River is Sugar Creek Sporting Clays and Hunting Preserve. Sugar Creek Hunting Preserve sits on 750 acres of rolling hills,

great cover and multiple small groves of trees.

Sugar Creek is owned and operated by Dale, Jean and Brian Waldbieser. Dale and Jean run the day to day operation of the hunting preserve, Brian, their son, guides, sets up hunts and takes care of their former farm nearby.

If you like upland bird hunting, Sugar Creek offers tremendous bird hunting opportunities. Here are some of the features for the hunter: strong fast flying birds in quality cover, guided hunts or hunters dogs welcome, customized hunts tailored to client needs and experience, indoor bird cleaning facilities, reservations are available seven days a week.

Both the sporting clays and the European style pheasant shooting areas Dale and Brian have built comfortable and safe shooting enclosures that give the shooter a wide range of movement, yet making them keep their shooting at safe angles.

The European Style Pheasant hunts are on Saturday and Sundays only. The hunters ride on a wagon to where the shoot will take place. There are 10 shooting stations with 2 shooters in each, the shooters rotate shooting from the ten stations. There are dog retrievers at each station. The shoot is handicap friendly with a 4 wheeler or goft cart available for them. After the shoot a group picture is taken, bring your camera if you like. Lunch is served while you wait for the pheasant to be cleaned for you.

Directions: At Mitchell, Indiana take highway



The owners of Sugar Creek Sporting Clays and Hunting Preserve from left to right, Brian, Jean and Dale Waldbieser standing in front of beautiful fireplace in the Lodge. (Photo by Ray Dickerson)

60 east 4.5 miles to the Sugar Creek Sign turn left on Sportsman Club Road & follow the signs 4 miles to lodge. From Salem, Indiana take highway 60 west thru Campbellsburg, across the Railroad Crossing, about 1/2 mile turn right onto 600 East (N), turn right at T-road, follow signs to lodge.

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News From The Indiana State Police

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

emergency or utility vehicle if they can do it SAFELY; If not they must **SLOW DOWN** and proceed with caution. We are asking motorists to **SLOW DOWN and/or MOVE OVER WHEN SAFE TO DO SO.**

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Highway incident-response vehicles
Highway work vehicles-including snow plows
Vehicle recovery equipment (tow trucks)

Remember to give snowplows room to work. The plows are wide and can cross the centerline or shoulder. Don't tailgate and try not to pass. If you must pass, take extreme caution and beware of the snow cloud.

During the winter, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and other county and municipal snowplow drivers are out on the roads to keep them clear of snow and ice and keep you safe. These brave and selfless individuals work a lot of hours keeping our roadways clear. Please do **YOUR** part to help keep them safe.

I still continue to see people blow by troopers on traffic stops. Most violations I see are committed by people from Indiana, oddly enough. Remember, anything can happen on a traffic stop-from a car pulling out suddenly, to a physical fight or even a gun fight. Please, give us room to work and slow down to keep us, yourself and your family safe.

A Story from the Road

We've got room for one weird but true story from the road. About two years ago a trooper was patrolling a local town one night when the city police put out a dispatch for a man wanted in some sort of domestic disturbance. The trooper hadn't driven far when he saw a man fitting the description stumbling down the sidewalk.

When he asked the man if he could speak with him, the guy took off running. However, in his drunken state, he didn't get far before he fell face down in a yard. By now a city officer was driving up to assist. The man would not take his hands from underneath his body. For us, this is a dangerous situation- the man could have a gun or anything. Well, as it turned out, he had something alright.

As the officers pulled his arms out he continued yelling "hands off my squirrel, OW, you're hurtin' my squirrel! Thinking he was referring to something else, they got him cuffed and stood him up to search him. When they lifted his shirt, there, sticking out of his front pants pocket was a long bushy red tail! Yes my friend, the guy had a live "pet" fox squirrel down his front pants pocket, head first.

I know, there are so many places we could go with this-so many one liners come to mind...But this ends another month's installment. Remember you can always reach me at jbowling@isp.in.gov. Thank you for allowing all of us to serve all of you-stay warm and safe, and we will talk again next month.

Ramblings from Da Region

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

Acreage conserved in Mexico 1,805,993
 Acreage conserved in the U.S. 4,283,142
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DUCKS UNLIMITED MEMBERSHIP
 Canada 103,973
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For more than 65 years, Ducks Unlimited has been restoring, protecting and managing North

America's wetlands and other wildlife habitats. Do something for a Duck today. Call **1-800-45-DUCKS** or visit www.ducks.org to see how you can help. Ducks Unlimited, Inc. is tax exempt under section 501 (C)(3) of the IRS Code, so any donation or gifts you make is tax deductible.

Remember DU works toward the vision of wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever. ■

Eastern Indiana Gem Show

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The Esteb Inn was owned by the Nicholson family in the 1920s and '30s and served as the back gate of the Wayne County Fairgrounds, located to the south.

A front was added in 1939 and it became the Blue Jay Cafe, and served as such until the late 1950s. (Writers note, I spent many hours at Blue Jays Cafe, when I was old enough to drive in the 50's, buying coffee for a nickel a cup with free refills.)

Since that time it has been a church with an apartment. A fire destroyed several rooms on the second floor in 1994 or thereabouts.

According to an article written by Bill Engle, Staff Writer for the Palladium-Item the Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society bought the burned out building in March of 1999 for there future clubhouse. It was considered as an eyesore, but the Gem Club planned to rebuild the structure to its original form, they paid \$25,300 for it, outbidding Historic Landmarks of Indiana and one other bidder.

At the time though, a huge undertaking, club members Eugene Clark of Richmond and Al Vernon of Centerville adopted the project and spent countless hours working on it. All the active members helped restore the clubhouse. Club members estimated it would cost \$100,000, not including work donated by club members to restore it. The Gem Club members sought grants and other funding sources.

In 2001 the Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society, Inc moved into its new clubhouse at 5199 US 40 East, Centerville, Indiana.

For further information write the **Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society, Inc, P.O. Box 1724, Richmond, IN 47375.**

For information on booths or other for the 38th Annual Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show contact Dave Straw at **756-966-4249**

I hope to see you at the Gem show, see page 10 for admissions and other important information.

Directions: The Wayne County Fairgrounds is easily accessed from I-70, exiting at exit 149 (east or west bound) go north on US 35 to Salisbury Road turn left onto Salisbury Road south to the entrance to the Fairgrounds. From US 40 drive east or west to west side of Richmond to Salisbury Road, turn north on Salisbury to Fairgrounds entrance. ■

BOB FELIX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Mounds Wastewater treatment building, that was eliminated, into the egg taking station and building a bunkhouse for the fishery biologists to sleep for the several days it takes to harvest the eggs. See photo of stripping eggs from an adult female walleye and storage of eggs on page 9.

In 1996 the State DNR combined Brookville Lake and Whitewater State Park into one unit under the title of Brookville Lake/Whitewater State Park Complex

Property Manager Bob Felix is responsible for the entire complex. To keep on top of as many problems as possible he holds a meeting of his key staff members every Monday morning to determine what needs to be fixed immediately and what can wait. They go over reports, make sure communications have been taken care of and everyone is aware of those pertaining to them. They go over what each has done the week before and what needs to be done during the current

week. The key reason for the meetings is due to it being a big place and he may not see many of them all week, the staff meeting cures most of those problems.

One thing that makes Bob's job a little easier is the competent staff he has working for him. All are responsible for the entire complex as applicable. They include as follows:

Assistant Manager (14 years) Vern Gillum who is responsible for taking care of the 3 front entrance gates, security people, concessions, summer labor crews and inventory control.

Assistant Manager (3 years) Amanda Tikkanen who is responsible for taking care of 3 beaches, safety program, trails, workers comp and she is the computer expert.

Wildlife Specialist (36 years) Tom Carr who is 2nd in charge when Bob is out of office, he takes care of wildlife programs, crop leases, special hunts, field trials, hunter check in stations, trapping, he's in charge of specialty personnel including 2 maintenance technicians, an equipment operator and keeping them supplied.

Recreation Specialist (30 years) Dennis Weber who is responsible for hiring the help for the 24 hour operations at the campgrounds (over 700 campsites), 2 marinas, 20 cabins at Whitewater and all the reservations. He also has to hire and train the additional summer help on procedures and computer training.

Maintenance Foreman (36 years) Dan Doll is responsible for maintenance of the entire complex Maintenance Foreman Steve Bennett is responsible for Whitewater State Park

Maintenance Foreman Homer Loudermilk is responsible for the Brookville Lake area from

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Johnny Webber took this 10 point, 210 pound (Field Dressed) Buck in Union County on 11-18-10. Its Gross Score was 174 6/8. (Johnny Webber Photo)



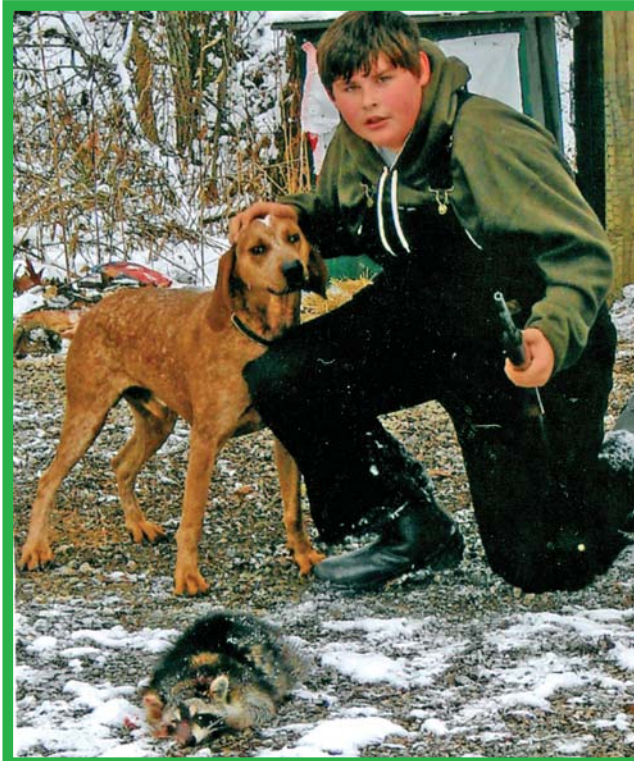
Jeremy Davis, Johnny Webbers son-in-law, took this 8 point, 224 pound (Field Dressed) Buck in Union County on 11-13-10. (Photo by Johnny Webber)



Dave Woeste took this 55 pound Beaver in Union County. ((Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



Eric Holmes took this 212 pound 8 point buck in Wayne County. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)



15 Year old Tyler Freeman took this raccoon. (Norm's Bait Shop Photo, Campbellsburg, IN)



Travis Hertel took this 7 point, 168 pound buck. (Frame's Outdoor Photo, Liberty, IN)

Fairfield Causeway north which includes the Quakertown State Recreation Area.

Maintenance Foreman Mary Theilbar is responsible for the Brookville Lake area from Fairfield Causeway south which includes the Mounds State Recreation Area.

Clerk (30 years) Tina Johnson Flaspohler at Mounds DNR Office is responsible for manning public window, personnel payroll and assigning marina buoys at sign up time.

Clerk (10 years) Rhonda Alvey at Mounds DNR Office is responsible for finances and special projects.

Clerk Debbie Stang at Whitewater State Park Office is responsible for manning the public desk.

Clerk May Jones at Whitewater State Park Office is responsible for manning the public desk.

One of the things I wanted to know and I asked Bob was, "is there a trail all the way around the Brookville Lake?"

He replied, "not yet." He continued, "I would sure like to get it, but before I build it I got to have a way to keeping it."

I asked, "Is there a partial trail?"

He said, "We got a trail from Fairfield Causeway south all the way around the lake back up north to the Fairfield Causeway. What we would like to do is build the other part of it too. The maintenance is the real difficult part."

I asked Bob if there was any new improvements coming to Brookville Lake or Whitewater State Park. I knew of several things that over the years had been talked about being built at Whitewater, a inn, a swimming pool, a tennis court, a better nature center; was any of that being planned?

He said he if he had the money he would like to put an Inn there, maybe a water park, a pool and a community type building up by the cabins, where people from the community could use it or

people renting the cabins could use it for meetings. Those kinds of things could be busy every day of the year. He would like to finish the trail all the way around the Brookville Lake, he would like to put a state of the art nature center where the new trail would start and finish, but.....

In reality, he does what he can do, to just maintain what they already have, with the money that he has to do it with and from this writer's point of view, Bob is doing an excellent job.

For Information on the Brookville Lake Complex call **765-647-2657**.

Bob and Sandy Felix live on the Brookville Lake property, they have a son, Scott and a daughter, Jamie, two grandchildren, Jacob David and Baylee.

I thanked Bob for taking time out of his busy schedule to talk to me and headed for Metamora to take a photo. ■

Roaming The Outdoors

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

in the earlier plan, some for antlerless deer only, would have contributed to the goal of reducing deer numbers by placing greater emphasis on hunting of antlerless deer.

"The new proposal has the same objective – to focus deer herd reduction in a strategically-targeted manner to more adequately balance ecological, recreational and economic needs of the citizens of Indiana," said Mark Reiter, director of the DNR Division of Fish and Wildlife. "Our responsibility is to manage wildlife for all Hoosiers. Some pointed to the previous proposal as an effort to manage the herd for trophy animals or increase license revenue. That was not the case."

The new recommendations maintain the focus but leave the firearms and muzzleloader seasons at their traditional 16-day lengths and drop a proposed two-day October season.

"This new proposal was created by staff within the DNR, using historic data gathered for deer management in Indiana, feedback from comments received during the initial proposal, and data from surrounding states," said Mitch Marcus, wildlife section chief for the Division of Fish and Wildlife. "We can't emphasize enough that the goal is to reduce deer numbers in a strategic manner; not everywhere, but certainly in areas of the state where it's needed to address the balance we're trying to achieve."

To see the entire context of proposal, log onto the DNR website at www.in.gov/nrc/2350.htm and www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/.

McCUNE DEER PHOTO CORRECTION

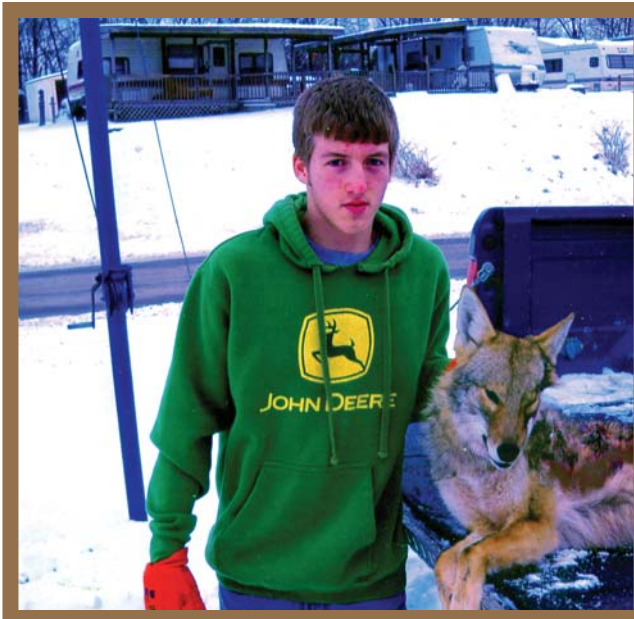
In the January 2011 Gad-a-bout I had a picture of Kampfire Kookin' Ray McCune, who writes a column in The Gad-a-bout, in his column on page 11 with a deer he had taken on Saturday, November 13, 2010. I had put the wrong date under the photo, the correct date is November 13th the first day of gun season.

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I hope to see the many many people who come by my booth each year to get a copy of The Gad-a-bout. This year I won't have to tell people they can't get it in areas I don't travel to, with The Gad-a-bout available on line at www.thegadabout.com everyone can open it for free and look at copies all the way back to January 2010 in living color. If I'm not in the booth when you come by pick up as many of the different months that are laying on the table you want. You can contact me by my cell phone **765-960-5767**. ■



Ten year old Chase Thompson took this 8 point, 180 pound Buck during this deer season. (Photo by Tommy & Michelle McClurg, Liberty IN)



Luke Chambers son of Mark Chambers took this 34 pound Coyote with a rifle. (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



Mark Gorman took this Albino Squirrel on 11-26-10. (Norm's Bait Shop Photo, Campbellsburg, IN)



Zach Ball took this 5 point Buck in Wabash County. This is his first buck. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Terrence Whitehead took this 9 point Buck on 10-2-10. (Summit Lake Bait & Tackle Photo, Summit Lake, IN)



Kevin Eltzroth took this 10 point Buck in Wabash County. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Robert Moore took this 8 point buck on 11-13-10. Robert is in the U.S. Army. (Summit Lake Bait & Tackle Photo, Summit Lake, IN)



Azure Cross, Owner of Summit Lake Bait & Tackle took this 4 point Buck (her first deer) on 11-14-10 (Summit Lake Bait & Tackle Photo, Summit Lake, IN)

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L to R, Jim and Darrell Rowe & Danielle Wilcox took these Pheasants and Chukar at Flatrock Hunting Preserve owned by Merrill Carrigan at Rushville, IN www.flatrockhunting.com (Dave's Triangle Inc. Photo, Brookville Lake, IN)



The picture is of 21 Crappie my son (Mitch Albright) and myself (Dean Albright) caught on Brookville lake 1/2/11. We found them deep, 18' - 22', in cover All were caught on minnows. Went back to the same area the following day and caught 3. (Albright Photo)



Cecil Richey took this 7 point, 165 pound Buck in Jennings County. This was his first deer with a shotgun. He took it on 11-14-10. (Photo by Cecil Richey, Jr - his proud father)



Jeff Estes took this 14 point Buck in Wabash County. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



Terry Brockman from Hagerstown took this 9 point Buck on 11-14-10. (Summit Lake Bait & Tackle Photo, Summit Lake, IN)



Chase Enyeart took this 9 point Buck in Wabash County. (Bozarth Country Store Photo, Lagro, IN)



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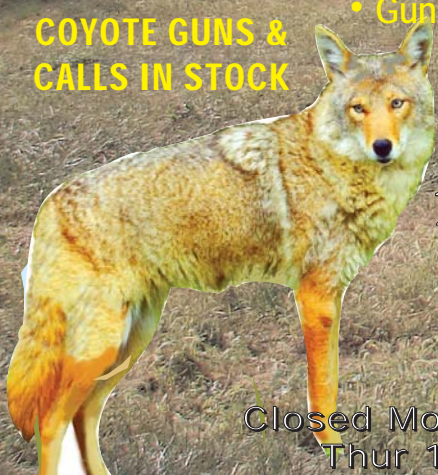
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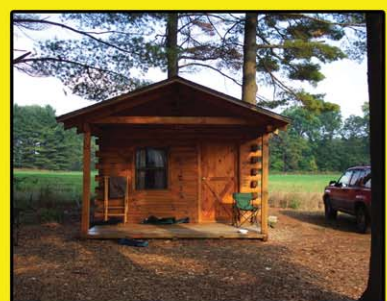
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